



Photo on reverse: Dickerman-Steele Ranch buildings,
Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve

CHAPTER 4: PARK PLAN

The Park Plan establishes the long-range vision and purpose for the park. Specific goals and supporting guidelines further clarify this purpose and vision. These goals and guidelines are written to address current issues while providing a foundation for continued resource protection and preservation, as well as development and interpretation of the park. The goals and guidelines also serve as design and implementation parameters for subsequent management and development plans.

4.1 CLASSIFICATION

In addition to the Department's mission, park management and development is further directed by park unit classification as specified by the California Public Resources Code, Section 5019.50-5019.80. The two Año Nuevo parks are currently classified as a State Park (inland, east of Highway 1) and a State Natural Reserve (coastal, west of Highway 1). Recent planning has provided a long-term perspective and an opportunity to further evaluate the classification of these two parks. The Department has identified its preferred alternative for combining both parks under the classification of "State Park" and sub-classifying the current Wildlife Protection Area, adjacent to coastal bluff and dunes, and Año Nuevo Island as a Natural Preserve (see **Figure 15**, Proposed Preserves).

The benefits of unifying the two parks into one single unit include:

- Natural Preserve sub-classification of a major portion of the coastal property will provide a high level of protection for natural and cultural resources. The protected area would be expanded to include protection of other significant resources.
- A single state park designation may reduce visitor confusion of having two similar park unit names in the same location.
- The restoration and adaptive use of historic structures (Steele Ranch and Cascade Ranch) would be more compatible with a state park classification rather than be divided between the State Park and State Natural Reserve units.
- Potential acquisition and use of coastal lands may be more compatible with a state park classification due to

the resource sensitivities and compatibility with adjacent land uses.

- Operational benefits include improved administrative efficiencies, increased opportunities for improving park infrastructure, and increased opportunities to provide appropriate recreational trails and educational programs.

The two park properties are proposed as one State Park, with a Natural Preserve designation for much of the coastal property.

The California Public Resources Code defines the “State Park” classification as follows:

PRC 5019.53. State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archeological, ecological, geological, or other such values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California, such as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, and desert and desert mountains.

Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modifications of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public’s enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions unto themselves, or which are otherwise

available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.

State parks may be established in the terrestrial or nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environments of the state.

The Public Resources Code establishes sub-classifications for areas that may be included within the boundaries of another unit of the State Park System. Año Nuevo SP is proposed to have two of these sub-classifications: Natural Preserve and Cultural Preserve. The proposed Natural Preserve is an expansion of the Wildlife Protection Zone of the former Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve. The California Public Resources Code defines the Natural Preserve classification as follows:

PRC 5019.71. Natural Preserves consist of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance established within the boundaries of other state park system units. The purpose of natural preserves shall be to preserve such features as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, representative examples of plant or animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of civilization, geological features illustrative of geologic processes, significant fossil occurrences or geological features of cultural or economic interest, or topographic features illustrative of representative or unique biogeographical patterns. Areas set aside as natural preserves shall be of sufficient size to allow, where possible, the natural dynamics of ecological interaction to continue without interference, and to provide in all cases, a practicable management unit. Habitat manipulation shall be permitted only in those areas found by scientific analysis to require manipulation to preserve the species or associations that constitute the basis for the establishment of the natural preserve.

Goals and guidelines are provided in this general plan to guide management and appropriate use of the proposed Natural Preserve (see Section 4.5, Planning Zones and Area-Specific Guidelines, Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone).

The proposed Cultural Preserve is in the existing inland Año Nuevo State Park area. The California Public Resources Code defines the Cultural Preserve classification as follows:



Franklin Point Trail, Año Nuevo SNR

PRC 5019.74 Cultural Preserves consist of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California. The highest level of resource protection and complete integrity of the cultural resources is to be sought within Cultural Preserves. Structures or improvements that conflict with that integrity are not permitted.

Goals and guidelines are provided in this general plan to guide management and appropriate use of the proposed Cultural Preserve (see Section 4.5, Planning Zones and Area-Specific Guidelines, Quiroste Valley Zone).

4.2 DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

A Declaration of Purpose describes the purpose of a park and is the broadest statement of management goals designed to fulfill the vision for the park. A Declaration of Purpose for each state park unit is required by Public Resources Code, Section 5002.2(b), "... setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the park consistent with the park's classification."

The current purpose statement for the State Natural Reserve was approved in 1979:

The purpose of Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve is to make available for public enjoyment, in an essentially natural condition, the scenic, biological, ecological, and cultural values of the California coastline, in the vicinity of Año Nuevo Point, including Año Nuevo Island. The pinniped rookery on Año Nuevo Island and the mainland is a prime resource, and shall receive full protection. The endangered San Francisco garter snake shall receive full protection. Day-use recreational activities necessary to permit people to enjoy the natural values of this location, and that will not conflict with these values, are appropriate. Every effort shall be made to provide full protection for unrestricted use of the rookery by the pinniped population. Archeological and historical values that exist in the unit shall be protected and interpreted.

The current purpose statement for the State Park was approved in 2000:

The purpose of Año Nuevo State Park, in San Mateo County, is to preserve and protect a substantial area on the western slope of the central Coast Range inland from Año Nuevo Point. The property contains a diversity of plant communities, including old growth forest, freshwater marsh, red alder riparian forest and knobcone pine forest. Its four perennial streams support steelhead trout and coho salmon, and its wetlands are habitat to the rare San Francisco garter snake and red-legged frog. Cultural resources include the remnants of a prehistoric Native American village site and a number of structures from the nineteenth century Cascade Ranch. In conjunction with adjacent and nearby public lands, the unit permits the protection of important regional ecological corridors.

California State Parks will preserve, protect, restore, interpret and manage the unit's archaeological, cultural, natural, aesthetic and scenic resources, features and values, making them available to the public for their educational, inspirational and recreational benefits.

PROPOSED DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The purpose of Año Nuevo State Park, in San Mateo County, is to preserve and protect the scenic, biological, ecological, and cultural values of the central California coastline, including Año Nuevo Island and properties on the western slope of the coast range inland from Año Nuevo Point. The park protects and interprets the pinniped rookeries, a prime resource, and significant wildlife habitats on Año Nuevo Island and the mainland. It also contains sensitive native dunes and coastal terrace prairie habitats, and a diversity of inland plant communities, including old growth forest, freshwater marsh, red alder riparian forest and knobcone pine forest. Its four perennial streams support steelhead trout and coho salmon, and its wetlands are habitat to the rare San Francisco garter snake and red-legged frog. Cultural resources include the remnants of Native California Indian Ohlone occupation of the area and a number of structures from the nineteenth century Cascade Ranch and historic Steele Ranch. In conjunction with adjacent and nearby public lands, the unit protects important regional ecological corridors and linkages.

California State Parks will preserve, protect, restore, interpret and manage the unit's archaeological, cultural, natural, aesthetic and scenic resources, making them available to the public for their educational, inspirational and recreational benefits.

4.3 VISION

A vision statement provides a view of desired future conditions within the park.

PROPOSED VISION

Año Nuevo State Park contains an abundance and diversity of marine, coastal, and mountain resources. Visitors will come here to explore and experience the ecological transition from ocean to coastal terrace, then through the foothills and up into the Santa Cruz Mountains. Discovering and viewing marine mammals in their natural habitat will provide a unique and unforgettable experience for many visitors.

A variety of day use and overnight facilities, as well as an extensive network of trails, will provide numerous recreation choices and ensure public coastal access. The natural resource values and expansive views of the rural landscape, isolated coastline, and rugged Santa Cruz Mountains will be preserved.

The park's cultural resources include Native California Indian village sites, maritime history, and remnants of historic ranches and other coastal agricultural heritage that reflect a history of human interaction with the land. Interpretation and education programs will enhance the visitor's experience by connecting visitors with the rich natural and cultural heritage found here. These exceptional resources at Año Nuevo State Park will be protected and preserved for future generations.

4.4 PLANNING ZONES AND AREA-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

The management intent and guidelines for specific planning zones within the park are integrated into and support the broader perspective described in the parkwide goals and guidelines. The planning zones are defined by a combination of landscape character, distinctive resources, visitor activities, operations or management requirements, and planning issues. As shown in **Figure 12** (Planning Zones), there are six planning zones, which include:

Coastal:

- Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone
- Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone

Inland:

- Cascade Ranch Zone
- Lake Elizabeth Zone
- Quiroste Valley Zone
- Backcountry Zone

The parkwide goals and guidelines apply within each of the planning zones. Parkwide concerns, such as the protection and preservation of ecosystem elements and processes, including the protection of special status species and important cultural features, are integral components in the management of all areas. See 4.5 Parkwide Goals and Guidelines.

ENTRANCE AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER ZONE

Management Intent

The Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone is located in the southern coastal portion of the park. It is bordered by State Highway 1 to the east, Año Nuevo Bay and Año Nuevo Creek to the south, private property currently in agriculture to the



The Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone. Visible in this aerial view are the main parking lot, the Dickerman-Steele historic ranch complex, and the old Highway 1 bridge.

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north, and the Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone to the west.

This area serves as the main park entrance and provides initial visitor contact, orientation, education, and interpretation of the coastal natural and cultural resources, as well as a staging area for guided tours. The unique resources in this zone include historic structures and special status species.

This planning zone will be managed to provide a variety of recreation and interpretive opportunities. There are numerous ways to experience the distinctive natural and cultural resources in the area, including nature hikes, exhibits, lectures, and videos. Adaptive re-use of the 19th century historic structures at the Dickerman-Steele Ranch provides outstanding facilities to educate visitors about the unique wildlife and other natural and cultural resources in the park. The restored Dickerman Barn, Horse Barn, and Creamery (the Año Nuevo Marine Education Center) will provide interpretive exhibit space, public orientation, training rooms, support space for docents, and space for films and lectures. A park administrative center will provide administrative offices and staff/volunteer meeting space. There is also a park employee residence in this planning zone to provide continuous staff presence at the park.

Eleven trails have been developed on the bluff providing visitor access to Año Nuevo Point, Cove Beach, and to the scenic viewpoints along the shoreline and at the historic bridge that crosses Año Nuevo Creek. The trails and other park facilities will provide opportunities for visitors of all ability levels to experience the landscape, resources, and recreation that the park has to offer.

This planning zone will accommodate high visitation during the peak season (associated with the elephant seal breeding season, December through March). There will be a high degree of social interaction as visitors participate in the guided tours to observe the elephant seals in the Natural Preserve and frequent contact with park staff can be anticipated. See **Figure 13** for location of coastal proposals.

Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone Guidelines:

Entrance and Interpretive 1: Preserve and protect the historic structures and sites located in the Dickerman-Steele Ranch complex. Rehabilitate historic buildings for appropriate adaptive uses and provide park orientation, interpretive programs, tour staging areas, visitor services, and day use facilities. Protect and interpret the mission-period foundation found in the

area between the Horse Barn, Dickerman Barn, and Creamery Building.

Entrance and Interpretive 2: Continue this area's function as the park's primary visitor orientation and interpretation center. Encourage visitor exploration of other areas of the park from this center. Also see guidelines **Access 1** and **Access 3**.

Entrance and Interpretive 3: Upgrade the existing entrance parking system to reduce potential user conflicts and traffic congestion, and to improve non-vehicular circulation. This may include separating vehicular from non-vehicular traffic, personal vehicles from buses, and public activity areas from park administration and maintenance operations.

Entrance and Interpretive 4: Continue to provide employee residences in this zone for security and surveillance purposes. Location of staff residences should be consistent with the resource management guidelines for this planning zone.

Entrance and Interpretive 5: Expand interpretive themes to illustrate the story of the Steele family dairy operations and cheese production, and the Año Nuevo Light Station, as well as later irrigated farming. Connect dairy farming interpretation into Wilder Ranch SHP, and light station history into Pigeon Point Light Station SHP.

Entrance and Interpretive 6: Enhance access to Año Nuevo Bay beaches by improving the existing access trail and formalizing the southern Caltrans right-of-way parking area. Establish an viewpoint near the historic highway bridge at Año Nuevo Creek and preserve the expansive coastal and ocean views.

WILDLIFE AND DUNE PROTECTION ZONE

Management Intent

The Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone is the western-most area of the park. It is bordered by Gazos Creek on the north, the Pacific Ocean on the west, Año Nuevo Bay to the south, and the visitor center and tour staging area to the east. This zone also includes Año Nuevo Island.

This planning zone is characterized by a coastal bluff, sand dunes, a rocky shoreline and pocket beaches west of State



Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone.: Año Nuevo Point in foreground, Franklin Point in background.

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Highway 1. The area is primarily undeveloped, with the exception of trails, parking, and restroom facilities, where appropriate. Several hiking trails meander along the bluffs, pass through the dunes to a sandy beach or the rocky point, and follow the creeks to the ocean.

The Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone will be managed primarily to protect and preserve the unique terrestrial and marine wildlife and natural and cultural resources while providing visitor access, education and interpretation. The trails through this zone will be clearly designated to minimize visitor impacts to the natural and cultural resources. The area will retain the rural, wild and undeveloped character of this part of the coastline. The natural coastal bluff environment will be protected, including the expansive viewshed, to preserve wildlife habitat and for the enjoyment of visitors who wish to explore the park by foot. Cultural resources throughout this zone, including prehistoric sites and the historic sites at Franklin Point, will also be protected. A large portion of this zone will be classified as a Natural Preserve to provide further protection to the sensitive resources occurring here. (See **Figure 15**, Proposed Preserves). Management of the Wildlife and Dune Preservation Zone shall maintain and ensure a wilderness-like experience for park visitors. Research activities

shall be consistent with the planning zone's management intent, goals, guidelines, and desired visitor experiences.

Park rules and regulations are more restrictive in this zone than in other management areas to ensure a high level of resource protection. Visitors will continue to enjoy the tours led by California State Parks volunteer naturalists to view the elephant seals during peak season, and self-guided hiking by visitor permit during other seasons.

The minimal facility development in this planning zone will include trails (including ADA-accessible boardwalks), observation areas, interpretive information, service roads, a group staging area (including parking, classroom space, storage, staff office, and restrooms), and staff facilities. These facilities will increase visitor amenities and supplement education and interpretive opportunities provided at the visitor center. The facilities will be designed for compatibility with the coastal landscape and character of the park.

Trails will receive high use during the peak season, and can also provide a quieter experience during the off-season. A trail segment adjacent to the privately-owned agricultural fields will provide connections to the Education and Interpretation Center Zone, Franklin Point, Gazos Beach, and the northern coastal dunes. This trail will also serve as a link in the California Coastal Trail and will support regional coastal trail linkages, including connections to Pigeon Point Light Station SHP to the north, private recreation providers and the Lake Elizabeth area and inland portion of the park to the east. Interpretation will provide information about the trail system, natural resources and maritime history of the area, including the many shipwrecks that have occurred near Franklin Point. Staff housing is provided for park security and surveillance purposes. See **Figure 13** for location of coastal proposals.

Natural Preserve

To preserve significant natural and cultural resources while allowing for visitor access, much of the area of coastal dunes and coastal grasslands warrants special protection through sub-classification as a natural preserve. The management intent in the creation of a natural preserve is to provide protection for most of the park's coastal dune and grassland ecosystems outside of the developed portions of the park. Existing and potentially new hiking trails would allow visitor access to the outstanding coastal resources along routes that would provide maximum resource protection. Day uses compatible with natural preserve status would be allowed, but facility development would be limited to trails and

interpretive signage. Staging facilities, such as parking, would be located outside preserve boundaries.

Sensitive native habitats occur on much of the coastal portion of the park west of State Highway 1. These include native coastal prairie, dune, and wetland habitats, which support numerous common as well as several sensitive wildlife species. Collectively these habitats constitute one of the most significant native coastal ecosystems on the central California coast. Coastal dune ecosystems with their complement of native species are rare along this part of the California coast and those found at Año Nuevo SP are considered some of the finest examples in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. Some of the park's coastal grasslands are regarded as significant since they are among the few remaining grasslands with a predominance of native species in coastal central California. In addition, significant cultural resources exist in this area.

State Parks will continue to manage Año Nuevo Island to protect marine mammal and bird habitat and the historic light station structures.

Año Nuevo Island, a significant island refuge, will also be part of the Natural Preserve and will continue to be managed to protect the marine birds and mammal habitat as well as the historic light station structures. The island will remain a protected habitat that is used for research purposes and there will be limited access. Efforts to enhance and restore native vegetation and wildlife habitat and to maintain the historic structures will continue. A remote video camera system called Seal Cam is installed in an observation blind on the Island. Seal Cam provides internet live video viewing of the elephant seals and is an important interpretive feature for making elephant seal observation accessible beyond the park. Seal Cam is a partnership project of California State Parks with the San Mateo Natural History Association.

Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone Guidelines:

Wildlife and Dune 1: Establish a Natural Preserve of approximately 800 acres of the coastal dune ecosystem and coastal grasslands west of State Highway 1, plus Año Nuevo Island, to establish special protection for sensitive natural and cultural features. The Natural Preserve boundaries shall extend from the area surrounding Año Nuevo Point north to the park's border along Gazos Creek to encompass the existing "Wildlife Protection Area," which was established to protect northern elephant seals and their breeding habitat (see **Figure 14**).

Wildlife and Dune 2: Establish an appropriate buffer area (approximately 100 feet wide) between the

Natural Preserve and this zone's western boundary, State Highway 1, existing development, roads, and areas managed for more intensive visitor use. Developed areas, such as staff housing and parking, will be located outside the Natural Preserve.

Wildlife and Dune 3: Continue accommodating research activities on Año Nuevo Island to ensure a high level of protection of cultural and marine resources. The Department should maintain the existing relationships with U.C. Santa Cruz, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and other entities currently using the island, for their continued occupancy of the fog signal building and to provide management guidelines for the appropriate treatment and protection of this building. Maintain and improve the Seal Cam system as necessary.

Wildlife and Dune 4: Protect and restore sensitive habitats in the northern coastal dune complex. Provide greater protection of cultural and natural resources from visitor use impacts and elephant seal activity by directing pedestrian traffic and trails, where possible, to avoid damage to sensitive natural and cultural resources.

Wildlife and Dune 6: Provide visitor access on designated trails through the Natural Preserve. Use boardwalks and trail delineation to provide public access while protecting and interpreting resource values. Establish trail connections between the Año Nuevo Point and Franklin Point areas as well as hiking-only extensions of the California Coastal Trail.

Wildlife and Dune 7: Maintain park signs that clarify property boundaries to minimize public/private use conflicts along trails adjacent to agricultural lands and other private property.

Wildlife and Dune 8: Provide maritime history interpretive information at the Franklin Point viewpoint. Evaluate the potential for additional formalized viewpoints and interpretation along the northern coast. (See guideline **Interpretation C-4**)

Wildlife and Dune 9: Discontinue surf fishing opportunities consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act regulations and resource management objectives as well as State Parks and Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) policies, regulations, and agreements.

Coordinate with the CDFG to determine the need and potential for improved parking and access facilities at Gazos Creek (CDFG and California State Parks ownerships).

Wildlife and Dune 10: Coordinate with Caltrans to improve the function and safety of day use parking areas and coastal access along State Highway 1. Enhancements could include resurfacing, striping, signs, screening, restroom facilities, and highway turnouts. Also provide appropriate and safe trail connections across State Highway 1 between coastal and inland park properties as well as appropriate trail markers and maps.

Wildlife and Dune 11: Provide a staging area for school group tours, separate from the general visiting public, in order to improve tour management, visitor safety, and parking conditions. Facility location and design is subject to further environmental impact assessment.

Wildlife and Dune 12: Coordinate with the Peninsula Open Space Trust Cloverdale Coastal Ranches to establish an inland trailhead and interpretive facilities at Gazos Creek Rd. and State Highway 1.

Wildlife and Dune 13: Support implementation of the California Coastal Trail Plan. Coordinate with adjacent landowners to provide trail linkages, where feasible, north to Pigeon Point Light Station SHP.

Wildlife and Dune 14: Evaluate the long-term affects on park facilities and programs in coastal areas caused by sea level changes resulting from long-term climate changes. Also evaluate potential impacts of climate change including sea level rise about every five years.



Cascade Ranch as viewed from
Highway 1

CASCADE RANCH ZONE

Management Intent

The Cascade Ranch Zone is located in the southern portion of Año Nuevo SP adjacent to and east of State Highway 1. It is bordered by the Backcountry Zone to the north and by Big Basin Redwoods SP to the east. This area contains five historic ranch structures, including the residences of the area's original ranching family. Cascade Ranch represents one of the last remaining original Steele Brothers Dairies and many of the buildings remaining on the ranch are original. The ranch currently forms a part of California State Historic Landmark

#906 and it also appears eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, likely as a historic district.

The entire historic Cascade Ranch is divided into two ownerships. California State Parks owns many of the historic ranch residences and outbuildings. Cascade Ranch Historic Farm (CRHF), a non-profit organization, owns and farms the 480-acre parcel of historic Cascade Ranch just north of the State Park property which also includes several historic structures. The CRHF land is in crop production to demonstrate historic coastal farm activities and sustainable agriculture, and to keep the traditional ranch lifestyle alive for public education. Coordination between California State Parks and CRHF for public access and interpretation and education will provide visitors the opportunity to understand and experience the rancher's way of life in the traditional row-crop and dairy industries along the coast, and will preserve the remaining features of the historically significant Cascade Ranch.

The Cascade Ranch area, in cooperation with Cascade Ranch Historic Farm, will be managed primarily for its historic and cultural landscape values and educational potential. Interpretive programs will support exploration of historic ranch structures, gardens, and historic coast ranch life. This area will also contain public vehicle access, parking and trails. Staff housing in the area will provide continuous staff presence at the park.

A regional maintenance facility serving the California State Park units in the Santa Cruz Mountains region will be considered in the Cascade Ranch area. Future opportunities for shared agency and interagency staff housing and maintenance facilities should be evaluated for potential development of this area. See **Figure 14** for location of inland proposals.

Cascade Ranch Zone Guidelines:

Cascade Ranch 1: Preserve and protect the historic character of the Cascade Ranch. Evaluate the historic significance of the ranch, to include a focused historic context and examination of the changing agricultural uses of the ranch, and determine which site features and elements contribute to the cultural landscape.

Cascade Ranch 2: Initiate appropriate management actions for treatment and protection of historic sites and features below:

- Stabilize the Cascade Ranch Horse Barn.



Cascade Ranch entrance view of horse barn and original Rensselaer Steele house

Cascade Ranch will be managed primarily for its historic and cultural landscape values and educational potential.

- Provide a conservation plan and treatment guidelines for the Steele Family/Chinese Workers' Cemetery.
- Develop maintenance guidelines for the historic hydrologic system at Cascade Ranch in order to avoid, minimize, or reduce negative impacts. This would include the various historic water control and conveyance features found upstream of the Cascade Ranch buildings.
- Complete a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation and/or nomination for the Cascade Ranch.

Cascade Ranch 3: Develop facilities for visitor day use and park operations which will enhance the visitor's enjoyment and appreciation of the cultural history while preserving and protecting the historic ranch setting.

Cascade Ranch 4: Continue staff housing in the Cascade Ranch area. Continue efforts to preserve and maintain historic buildings and structures, including historic interior and exterior character defining features and associated landscape elements. Additional adaptive uses for interpretive and administrative purposes may be considered, but should follow standards and guidelines identified in management reports (such as Historic Structures Reports or Cultural Landscape Reports) prepared to establish treatment guidelines as per the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Modern improvements should be compatible with historic character and treatment guidelines.

Cascade Ranch 5: Coordinate with adjacent property owners, including Cascade Ranch Historic Farm, to interpret Steele family ranching operations and cheese production. Promote shared use and interpretation of public and privately owned facilities.

Cascade Ranch 6: Coordinate row-crop agriculture or historical ranching interpretation at Cascade Ranch with the interpretation of the Dickerman-Steele Ranch buildings, and other regional agriculture interpretation such as at Wilder Ranch SP and Cloverdale Coastal Ranches. (See guideline **Interpretation B-3**)

Cascade Ranch 7: Develop vehicle access, trailhead parking, and picnic facilities immediately south of the historic ranch complex, subject to further environmental impact assessment. Consider providing

group day use facilities. Establish safe vehicle access from State Highway 1, with adequate buffers and screening. This road could also provide visitor access to the historic ranch complex and/or authorized vehicle access to park maintenance facilities.

Cascade Ranch 8: Coordinate with adjacent property owners (Cascade Ranch Historic Farm) to provide a multi-use public access trail connecting Cascade Ranch to the Lake Elizabeth area and for shared use of Chalks Mountain Road for public access and visitor parking at Cascade Ranch.

Cascade Ranch 9: Consider establishing alternative park operations and maintenance functions and facilities south of the ranch complex (in support of Año Nuevo SP, Butano SP, and the Rancho del Oso area of Big Basin Redwoods SP) subject to further environmental impact assessment. Additional adaptive use of existing ranch buildings may be considered for these purposes. Ensure compatibility with historic ranch setting. Coordinate with adjacent landowners to ensure compatibility of land uses, operations, and circulation. Evaluate this potential in conjunction with development of nearby day use picnic facilities (see guideline **Cascade Ranch 7**).

Cascade Ranch 10: As more specific planning and proposed project information becomes available, evaluate the potential cumulative impacts of proposed development on the historic character and integrity of the buildings, structures, and landscape at Cascade Ranch as well as the management intent of this zone.

LAKE ELIZABETH ZONE

Management Intent

The Lake Elizabeth Zone is adjacent to Highway 1 between Cascade Ranch to the south and Whitehouse Road to the north. This area is characterized by annual grassland on the flat terrain and gentle slopes and riparian scrub vegetation surrounding Lake Elizabeth, a reservoir used for agricultural irrigation. This area includes the marine terrace northeast of Highway 1 and the grass and chaparral covered foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. There is an open scenic quality to this area, where sweeping views of the ocean and adjacent agricultural fields are common.



Lake Elizabeth Zone access

The Lake Elizabeth Zone will be managed primarily for visitor access, recreational use, and natural resource protection. Visitors enjoy the expansive scenic qualities as an important part of visitor experiences in the park and for travelers along the highway. Visitors experience spectacular views of timbered mountains to the east, rolling, brush- and grass-covered interior foothills, and the coastal terrace and ocean to the west. Visitors to this area can find relaxation, wildlife viewing, and access to a variety of recreation facilities. The park's primary and most accessible inland trailhead will be located in this area to provide hikers, bicyclists and equestrians access to the park's uplands. Hiking trails will also provide access to the coastal environment located across the highway. The day use parking lot could accommodate enroute vehicle campers for overnight use along Highway 1. See **Figure 14** for inland proposals.

The park's primary inland trailhead will be located in the Lake Elizabeth Zone.

Lake Elizabeth Zone Guidelines:

Lake Elizabeth 1: Develop a day use area to serve as the primary trailhead access inland from Highway 1. The access road and parking should accommodate different types of vehicles (e.g. cars, camper vans, recreation vehicles, horse trailers) to support multi-use of trails and day use facilities. Provide appropriate park and regional trail network information and orientation.

Lake Elizabeth 2: Park operations may consider alternative use of the day use parking lot at Lake Elizabeth to accommodate enroute campers. No other camping provisions are anticipated.

Lake Elizabeth 3: Continue monitoring water quality and changes in natural resource habitats and take appropriate management actions to ensure desired conditions in compliance with regulatory requirements and use agreements.

Lake Elizabeth 4: Protect special status wildlife species, such as the San Francisco garter snake and red-legged frog and their associated habitat, when considering future development and use of the Lake Elizabeth area.

Lake Elizabeth 5: Preserve the expansive natural views of coastal foothills and ridges from the highway corridor. Minimize the visual impact of park facilities with appropriate site planning and screening.

Lake Elizabeth 6: Manage visitor use along Whitehouse Creek through appropriate easements and right-of-way agreements. Maintain signs indicating State Park boundaries to minimize public/private use conflicts.

QUIROSTE VALLEY ZONE

Management Intent

The Quiroste Valley, once occupied by native California Indians (the Quiroste), is located in the western foothills of the park along the north side of Whitehouse Road. It is a secluded valley of annual grasslands and brush areas surrounded by forested hills. The Quiroste Valley Zone includes the valley and surrounding areas. It is bordered by the Lake Elizabeth Zone to the south and the Backcountry Zone to the east and to the north, and the park boundary with private lands to the west.

Cultural Preserve

To preserve significant cultural resources and a unique cultural landscape, while allowing for Native California Indian community and park visitor access, the Quiroste Valley and surrounding viewshed warrants special protection through sub-classification as a cultural preserve (see **Figure 15**, proposed preserves). The management intent in the creation of a cultural preserve is to provide protection for most of the secluded Quiroste Valley and viewshed as a uniquely preserved and managed cultural landscape and resource that honors the heritage of the historic Quiroste tribe and the Ohlone people.

The Quiroste Valley will be managed as a unique cultural landscape and area of important cultural resources, with provisions for public access and interpretation. A cultural landscape is defined by the National Park Service as “a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources...plant communities, animals, subsistence and ceremonial grounds are often components.” The Zone is proposed to be designated as a cultural preserve. Management of the cultural preserve may involve vegetation management in order to restore valley conditions to the time of Quiroste occupation and the arrival of the Portolá expedition. Such management should include an appropriate and natural vegetation transition to surrounding backcountry natural landscape areas along cultural preserve-planning zone perimeter areas.



Quiroste Valley, upper end

The cultural preserve is intended to provide protection for the Quiroste Valley as a uniquely preserved and managed cultural landscape.



Road into Quiroste Valley

Day uses compatible with the cultural preserve status would be allowed, but facility development would be limited to trails in the planning zone and to interpretive signage outside of the valley viewshed. Hiking trails allow visitor access to the valley along routes that would provide maximum resource protection. An existing unpaved service road provides vehicular access into the valley from Whitehouse Creek Road. Temporary staging areas and facilities, such as parking, areas for unloading of equipment, materials, or supplies for events, and portable toilets will be accommodated. Non-permanent day use facilities will provide access and interpretation of the extensive cultural and natural resources. Approved overnight use will be restricted to that associated with native California Indians ceremonies or appropriate special events compatible with the character of the Quiroste Valley. Non-permanent replicas of Native California Indian structures and village site features are future considerations that would offer further opportunities for Native California Indian ceremonies, activities, or interpretation to tell the story of the pre-European lifeways of the Quiroste people and the arrival of the Portolá expedition. Interpretative information may be provided on trailhead or viewpoint panels, on brochures, or at the main park visitor center.

Ongoing coordination with appropriate Ohlone tribal representatives will help determine the land stewardship, resource management, appropriate uses, and interpretation and education opportunities to be provided in the Quiroste Valley area.

See **Figure 14** for inland proposals.

Quiroste Valley Zone Guidelines:

Quiroste Valley 1: Provide a Cultural Preserve sub-classification of approximately 225 acres of the Quiroste Valley and surrounding viewshed north of Lake Elizabeth and west of Whitehouse Road to establish special protection for the cultural landscape and the cultural resources of the valley.

Quiroste Valley 2: The Cultural Preserve boundaries (see **Figure 15**) shall include the Quiroste Valley and surrounding viewshed (as viewed from the valley floor).

Quiroste Valley 3: Consult with local native California Indian representatives and pursue partnerships with local native California Indian groups to establish resource management practices and interpretation of native California Indian history, lifeways, and the

protection of significant cultural sites and features located in the Quiroste Valley. This includes vegetation management that replicates valley conditions of the historic Native California Indian occupation.

Quiroste Valley 4: Provide visitor access and provisions for appropriate Native California Indian activities and ceremonies as well as interpretation that focus on Native California Indian culture and village life in the Quiroste Valley. Continue use of existing unpaved roads for limited vehicular access. Avoid permanent developments that are not consistent with the remote undeveloped backcountry character of the valley and the cultural landscape management of the valley.

Quiroste Valley 5: Limit signage in the Quiroste Valley to that necessary for public safety and orientation, in order to retain the cultural landscape of the pre-European contact valley as much as possible.

Quiroste Valley 6: Continue researching traditional Quiroste village structures (e.g. tule structures, Round House) to enhance understanding of the Native California Indian occupation of the valley.

Quiroste Valley 7: Allow for Native California Indian activities and ceremonies, special events, and interpretive program activities that are consistent with the intent and purpose of the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve classification. Conduct comprehensive cultural resource surveys and evaluations to identify all significant sites. Ensure that cultural, historic, and prehistoric sites and features are protected. (See guidelines **Interpretation E-3** and **Interpretation F-1**, and the related goal)

Quiroste Valley 8: Provide access roads, interpretive viewpoint(s) with interpretive information signs, and trailhead parking. Keep parking out of the valley viewshed. Interpretation in the valley will provide for meaningful on-site interpretation and will not detract from the cultural landscape.

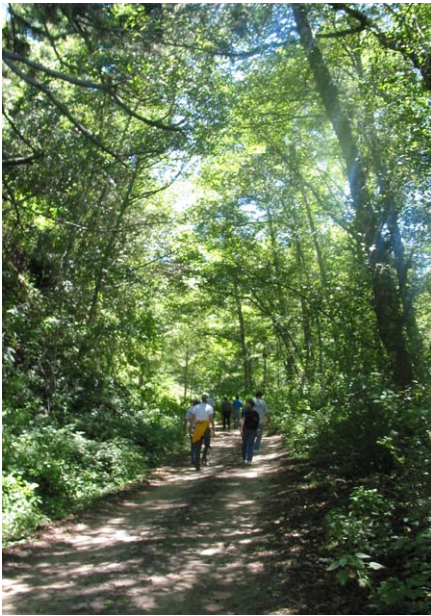
Quiroste Valley 9: Provide interpretive information about Native California Indian history and the Quiroste Valley site, potentially at access points, vistas, and trailheads, and the main park visitor center. Continue comprehensive surveys of remaining portions of the Quiroste Valley Planning Zone that lack coverage. Evaluate, record, and interpret historic resources and



Quiroste Valley, lower end

features, such as the Frank Steele ranch structures and the Whitehouse Creek dam at these same locations. (See **Interpretation and Education Goal F** and guidelines **Interpretation F-1** and **Interpretation F-2**)

BACKCOUNTRY ZONE



Old Womans Creek Road

Management Intent

The Backcountry Zone consists of the more remote upland areas of the park. This zone is characterized by forested mountains, rolling hills covered with grass and chaparral, and riparian canyons with lush undergrowth and large trees. The northern boundary consists of a linear corridor along Gazos Creek which is also the boundary between Butano SP and Año Nuevo SP. The Peninsula Open Space Trust's (POST) Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, a significant regional conservancy natural area, borders the northwestern corner of the Backcountry Zone along Gazos Creek Road. Big Basin Redwoods SP is adjacent to the eastern boundary of this planning zone.

The Backcountry contains quiet forests, expansive brushlands, native wildlife and plants, ridge top vistas of the Santa Cruz Mountains, lush riparian corridors, and important cultural resources. These are invaluable qualities that will be protected and enhanced. This area will be managed to preserve the natural landscape, preserve natural and aesthetic resource values, and retain the sense of solitude. There will be minimal recreational facility development to accommodate low impact recreational opportunities. Management of the Gazos Creek riparian area and watershed will support natural processes and scenic views.

This area will be managed to preserve the natural landscape, retain natural and aesthetic resource values, and maintain the sense of solitude.

Minimal facility development for this zone would include multi-use trails, fire roads, vista points, and trail camps. Fire roads and trails will ensure visitor safety and provide regional trail connections. Backcountry visitors can enjoy day use facilities and overnight trail camps. Hikers, bicyclists and equestrians can explore the park and surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains on the region's multi-use fire roads and trails.

See **Figure 14** for inland proposals.

Backcountry Zone Guidelines:

Backcountry 1: Provide trailhead access and parking in the vicinity of Gazos Creek Road and Old Womans Creek Road.

Backcountry 2: Develop additional trail camps and/or horse trail camps. Consider the possibilities of these trail camps to also serve as bicycle camps in the backcountry, accessible by multi-use trails.

Backcountry 3: Coordinate with POST to develop trail connections to and through the Cloverdale Coastal Ranches. Establish a multi-use trail connection from Butano SP and Cloverdale Coastal Ranches through Año Nuevo SP to the coast. Incorporate key regional vista points and interpretive signage into the trail system, using and tying together the interpretive themes of each park. (See guideline **Interpretation B-4**)

Backcountry 4: Explore possibilities for a regional coastal trail connecting destinations such as Pigeon Point Light Station SHP to the north. These routes should be a part of a regional trail network.

Backcountry 5: Cooperate with POST to support opportunities to develop day use parking, trail access, potential bike staging areas, and appropriate orientation, interpretation, and visitor service facilities on the inland side of Highway 1.

4.5 PARKWIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES

The parkwide goals and guidelines address existing issues and provide ongoing guidance that will be undertaken to realize the long-term vision for the park. The *goals* establish the purpose and the *guidelines* provide the direction that California State Parks will consider to achieve these goals. The following goals and guidelines address managing and interpreting the park's resources, providing recreational facilities and opportunities, and operating and maintaining the park.

PHYSICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Geology and Hydrology

Within Año Nuevo SP natural geologic and hydrologic processes are reshaping the park's landforms and changing its watercourses. These processes happen both slowly over geologic time and abruptly during earthquakes, intense or prolonged storm events, or other natural disasters. In the inland portion of the park, steep topography and unconsolidated soils, periodic heavy rainfall, and occasional

earthquakes make this area naturally prone to floods, landslides, slope erosion, stream bank slumping, stream sedimentation impacts, and log and debris jams. Overall, the coastal areas have broad sandy beaches, sand dunes, rocky shorelines, and gentler coastal terrace topography that can be prone to landslides, but steep sea cliffs are susceptible to wave-induced erosion and slumping. Human development and use, such as roads, trails, utilities, and recreation facilities can increase the frequency and scale of these natural processes as well as introduce sediments, septic system wastes, and other pollutants into watersheds. Several traces of the active San Gregorio Fault traverse the coast and the potential exists for surface rupture and strong ground shaking. Appropriate initial site investigation, site planning, design, development, and operation of facilities is critical to avoid or minimize locating park development or activities in potentially geologically hazardous areas, which could lead to negative human impacts on water quality and habitat integrity, and possible loss of human life and property.

A close relationship between watershed integrity, water quality, facility development, and natural disaster preparedness is reflected in the following goals and guidelines. These goals and guidelines are further reinforced by implementing the policies presented in the Department Operations Manual (DOM) for watershed management, stream management, watershed and stream protection, stream restoration, floodplain management, wetlands management, coastal lagoon management, water quality and quantity, water rights, coastal erosion, geologic hazards, facility siting in geologically hazardous areas (including seismic hazard zones), and protection of geologic and soil resources. In addition to the DOM, State Parks has developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) for road recontouring and rehabilitation, road removal, road-to-trail conversion, and culvert replacement. The standard construction BMPs for erosion and sediment control from the California Stormwater Quality Association (Construction Handbook, January 2003) will also be used where appropriate. These BMPs will be implemented as applicable during site-specific development.

Geology and Hydrology Goal: Minimize human impacts on natural geologic and hydrologic processes and values while protecting human life and property from these natural processes. Provide for water quality within the springs, streams, ponds, and coastal waters at Año Nuevo SP that is safe for visitors and keeps water bodies inhabitable for wildlife and plant species.

Geology and Hydrology Guidelines:

Geology/Hydrology 1: Monitor and document the geologic and hydrologic processes affecting the park and its resources.

Geology/Hydrology 2: Determine if, where, and how human development or activities may be exaggerating the natural rates or scales of landslides, coastal bluff erosion, stream channel erosion, log and debris jams and excessive sedimentation (aggradation) or degradation. Identify best management actions that can reduce or avoid negative human impacts to slope and stream integrity and to water quality. Management actions could include road and trail rehabilitation or removal from highly erosive areas, stream modifications, debris management, and revegetation.

Geology/Hydrology 3: Include licensed professional biological, geological, and engineering evaluations as appropriate when locating and designing permanent structures, campgrounds, roads, utilities, and trails to avoid or reduce potential damage to people and property from unstable soil, coastal bluff erosion, landslides, debris flows, floods, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

Geology/Hydrology 4: Construct all structures in the park in conformance with seismic design criteria in the newest edition of the Uniform Building Code, California Building Code, or California Historic Building Code. State Park staff will inspect all buildings as soon as possible after any large earthquake affecting the Año Nuevo area to ascertain any damage. Any major damage shall be inspected by a qualified structural engineer before the buildings resume use by Park staff or the public.

Water Quality Guidelines:

Geology/Hydrology 5: Understand and comply with the surface and groundwater beneficial uses and water quality objectives set forth in the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Basin Plan that apply to the park watersheds and take appropriate actions to prevent degradation of surface and groundwater within the park. Examples of appropriate actions include ensuring that park sewage treatment meets water quality standards and planning and

implementing new park projects so they do not degrade surface or groundwater quality.

Geology/Hydrology 6: Cooperate with other landowners and regulatory agencies to address and remediate sediment issues affecting the park.

Geology/Hydrology 7: As appropriate, develop and implement BMPs for erosion and sediment control and storm water runoff for park projects.

Geology/Hydrology 8: Maintain and manage native riparian vegetation bordering the streams and springs, where feasible to filter sediments and other pollutants from runoff that enter these water bodies. Use biotechnical methods where possible when it is necessary for embankment stabilization and for stream restoration.

Geology/Hydrology 9: Participate with others such as resource/regulatory agencies and adjacent landowners to develop watershed management plans or assessments for major watersheds contained in the park. The watershed planning effort will use current information from existing watershed assessments and studies. These watershed plans analyze the sediment transport functions in the park's stream systems, evaluates impacts of facilities and park use, and provides a scientific basis for selection, design, implementation and monitoring of future fisheries habitat enhancement and sediment reduction projects. Consider a comprehensive plan that also includes Butano SP, as Gazos Creek originates partly in Butano SP. Elements of this plan may include, but not be limited to:

- Inventory and prioritize sediment sources, analyze the sediment transport functions in the stream systems with respect to their impact on in-stream habitat and on sediment delivery to Gazos Creek and its tributaries, Cascade Creek, Whitehouse Creek, Green Oaks Creek and Año Nuevo Creek. Gazos Creek, a priority watershed for coho salmon and steelhead trout restoration, is currently being evaluated by the Coastal Watershed Council. Hydrologic and geomorphic assessments, sediment load and yield, road inventory, and other studies are available.
- Determine if fluvial geomorphic analysis is needed and what level is required for all streams. Coordinate this

analysis with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) monitoring efforts.

- Assess the impacts of park facilities and activities on the integrity of the park's ecology, watershed, and water quality.

Paleontology

Paleontological resources are remnants of life from past geological periods (e.g. fossil remains). These resources constitute a fragile and nonrenewable scientific record of the history of life on earth and represent an important and critical component of the natural heritage. The geologic formations in Año Nuevo SP contain various types of fossils, most of which are common fossils dating to the Miocene age (13-20 million years old) and the Cretaceous age (66-98 million years old) when the land within Año Nuevo SP was submerged. Erosion and excavation, associated with site improvement and construction activities, may expose fossils and other paleontological resources. Other human activities may result in damage or destruction of these resources. Department policies (DOM 0309 Paleontological Resources) provide for the protection and preservation of paleontological resources of park resource importance and are also addressed by the following goal and guidelines.

Paleontology Goal: Protect and preserve significant paleontological resources within Año Nuevo State Park.

Paleontology Guidelines:

Paleo 1: Survey paleontological resources to protect these resources within the park. This program can be combined with the park unit resources inventory program for the park.

Paleo 2: If unusual or major paleontological resources are discovered (e.g. exposed by excavation or other actions), consult with the Department's resource specialists to determine significance and implement appropriate remediation, in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The coastal section of Año Nuevo SP comprises approximately 1300 acres that encompass sensitive native dune, coastal scrub, riparian, and coastal terrace prairie habitat. This coastal habitat is extremely important for wildlife.

The emphasis in the park's natural resource management should be on the long term health and vitality of the composite ecosystem.

It is characterized by long stretches of sandy beaches and dunes, broken by rocky-intertidal habitat. A portion of this area was formally designated as a Wildlife Protection Area consisting of sand dunes and beaches that included a major mainland breeding colony for the federally protected northern elephant seal. Año Nuevo Island is especially valuable wildlife habitat, and access is restricted to park staff and approved researchers. A proposed Natural Preserve would continue and extend this protection of sensitive resources.

The inland section of the park comprises approximately 2,900 acres of land that encompass several diverse habitat types, including coastal prairie, freshwater marsh, second growth redwood and Douglas-fir forest, knobcone pine stands, riparian areas, oak woodland, and chaparral. Its four perennial streams support steelhead trout and coho salmon, and its wetlands are habitat to the federally and state listed endangered San Francisco garter snake and the California red-legged frog, federally listed as threatened.

Past and present human influences, including agricultural production, logging, introduction of non-native plants and animals, visitor activities, and facility development have changed the conditions under which natural ecosystems have developed. These changes have created shifts in species composition and changes in the structure and pattern of plant communities and species populations. As a result, sensitive habitats such as wetlands, dunes, grasslands, and riparian areas have been impacted and native plant and wildlife values have declined in some locations. This decline has affected species such as the San Francisco garter snake, California red-legged frog, tidewater goby, coho salmon, steelhead, and Western snowy plover.

The park is an important part of a regional mosaic of preserved lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains that provide valuable native habitats for wildlife. Protecting habitats within the park as well as between the park and other surrounding public natural lands is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems. Año Nuevo SP directly connects these coastal and inland habitats with Big Basin Redwoods SP and Butano SP. In response to this, the emphasis in the park's natural resource management should be on the long term health and vitality of the composite ecosystem.

Natural Resource Management Goal: Manage natural resources to preserve the composite whole of physical and biological processes, features, and native plant and animal communities. The park will be managed to:

- Protect, restore, and maintain the wildlife populations and native ecosystems, especially native dune and grassland vegetation complexes and wildlife populations at Año Nuevo SP.
- Maintain or restore the movement of native species through the park and regional ecosystems in order to protect and promote species abundance and diversity.
- Protect special status plants and wildlife within the park and manage for their perpetuation.
- Restore, maintain, and protect the native dune and grassland habitat.

Vegetation Management Guidelines:

Native plant communities are essential habitat for both sensitive as well as common wildlife species. Four of the plant communities in Año Nuevo SP are designated as rare by the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base. These communities are Arroyo Willow, California Oatgrass, Sand Verbena–Beach Bursage, and Red Alder.

The long term health of the park's native plant communities, which provide habitat for native wildlife, are threatened by invasive non-native plant species, especially European beachgrass, Cape ivy, and Scotch broom.

Vegetation 1: Prepare and update the park's Vegetation Management Statement that identifies goals for vegetation management and desired conditions in each of the park's management units as described in the Department's Natural Resource Condition Assessment database. Re-establish and promote natural ecological processes, such as the use of fire under prescribed conditions, which are essential for the development and maintenance of native plant communities. For example, rare communities such as knobcone pine forest are fire dependent, needing recurring fire events for stand renewal. Maintain sustainable forest management techniques to ensure healthy forests, which may contribute to the reduction of atmospheric carbon through carbon sequestration, especially in conifer tree species.

Vegetation 2: Identify locations in the park that are heavily impacted from past management practices (e.g. agricultural production, logging, fire suppression) and implement appropriate vegetation and habitat restoration programs. Components of such restoration

programs may include prescribed fire, revegetation with native species, fenced enclosures, facility relocations, and other methods. Reforestation, where appropriate, can also help to positively affect climate change by reducing greenhouse gases through carbon sequestration.

Vegetation 3: Manage invasive non-native plant species with appropriate methods to prevent their establishment and spread. Priority for control efforts will be given to those species that cause damage, have the most potential to spread rapidly,, and are conspicuous in the park.

Vegetation 4: Prescribed fire should be used as part of a vegetation management strategy, when appropriate, to achieve natural and cultural landscape management goals. This program, including the Unit Prescribe Fire Plan, will be upgraded periodically to reflect the ongoing accomplishments and necessary refinements, changes in prescribed fire science and technology, state and federal regulations, and be reviewed for consistency with other programs affecting vegetation management strategies and public safety.

Special Status Plants Guidelines:

Two special status plant species, coast wallflower and San Francisco popcorn-flower, are reported to occur within the boundaries of Año Nuevo SP. Coast wallflower, occurring on the coastal portion of the park, is on the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B (plants considered rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere). San Francisco popcorn-flower, reported on the inland portion, is listed as endangered by the State of California and is also on CNPS List 1B.

Suitable to marginally suitable habitat exists within the park for 33 other special status plant species. Seventeen of these species are CNPS List 1B plants, one is List 2 (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere), one is List 3 (plants about which more information is needed – a review list), and thirteen are List 4 (plants of limited distribution – a watch list). Appropriate management will be provided for all special status plant species that are considered to be at risk by park biologists.

Special Plants 1: Protect special status plant species to the degree necessary to maintain or enhance

populations. Initiate surveys for sensitive plant species to document their distribution and abundance.

Special Plants 2: Implement appropriate management actions using proven ecological principles and professionally accepted methods for those species identified as “at risk” or “with known threats”.

Fire Processes Guidelines:

Fire is an important natural process that is integral to the ecology of the Santa Cruz Mountains bioregion. Many of the plant communities within this region, including the coastal habitats, depend on periodic fires for renewal, regeneration, and maintenance of healthy ecosystems. This is especially true for the park’s coastal terrace prairie, knobcone pine forest, and chaparral communities. However, natural fire regimes have been greatly altered since the Euroamerican settlement of the area. Subsequent land use conversion, resource utilization (e.g. by logging), and introduction of non-native plant species (e.g. European beachgrass) within the park and surrounding lands have created a mosaic of natural habitats interspersed with lands dominated by non-native species and areas developed for visitor services. In some locations, such as publicly owned lands, it is feasible and appropriate to implement a well-planned program of prescribed fire to promote natural processes and to rejuvenate and maintain healthy ecosystems. Prescribed fires are used as a management tool to eliminate exotic weeds from native habitats, promote the growth native plant species, and enhance wildlife habitat. Prescribed fire is the planned application of fire implemented under safe weather conditions to restore healthy ecosystems and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. By reintroducing fire cycles to the ecosystem, healthy landscape-level ecological dynamics are restored. See guidelines **Vegetation 1** and **Vegetation 4**.

The prevention and suppression of destructive wildland fires threatening human lives, property, and sensitive natural resources is of prime importance. Wildland fires can have a significant effect on park resources and operations. DOM Chapter 0300, Natural Resources, Section 0313.2 describes the Department’s policy on fire management, including wildfire management (Section 0313.2.1) and prescribed fire management (Section 0313.2.2). An Interagency Agreement concerning wildland fire protection between State Parks and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) outlines the primary responsibilities of both agencies, modified fire suppression techniques, and post-fire rehabilitation. Primary responsibilities of State Parks personnel

Fire is an important
natural process that is
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concerning life and safety include the protection and evacuation of visitors and park personnel, area closures, law enforcement, protection of park facilities and resources, and initial fire response. State Parks has also prepared guidelines for the protection of buildings and structures near wildland vegetation (Protection of Structures from Wildland Fire Guidelines, April 2007). These guidelines are intended to minimize the probability that structures near flammable vegetation will ignite and burn during a wildland fire.

Fire 1: A Wildfire Management Plan is required for units that have significant wildland resources such as Año Nuevo SP. The Department shall coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) volunteer fire departments, to complete and update the Wildfire Management Plan for this unit, addressing all aspects of wildfire planning, including prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression.

Wildlife Management Guidelines:

The protection and perpetuation of native wildlife species is contingent upon the successful rehabilitation and continuance of native plant and aquatic communities, combined with the removal of non-native, invasive plant and animal species. Wildlife feeding and availability of food provided by humans disrupts natural wildlife processes and threatens the health and existence of some native wildlife species.



Northern elephant seals and other special status animal species will be monitored, protected, and studied.

Wildlife 1: Monitor northern elephant seals and other special status animal species to identify population trends and to develop management strategies for their protection and perpetuation. Encourage and support scientific surveys and studies to be conducted in the park to gather more information about the distribution, status, and condition of sensitive natural resources.

Wildlife 2: Cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies and with open space organizations to promote effective and efficient park and regional vegetation, habitat, and wildlife resource management. State Parks should take a proactive or leadership role in regional efforts such as DFG's Wildlife Action Plan.

Wildlife 3: Prepare and conduct surveys and inventories of natural resources in areas subject to development. Avoid or reduce negative impacts to

sensitive resource areas and follow all applicable regulations and guidelines for minimizing adverse impacts from new facilities development.

Wildlife 4: Control and/or eradicate non-native animal species, such as bullfrogs, that have been identified by State Park biologists and/or park managers as creating significant impacts to sensitive wildlife species such as the federally listed as threatened California red-legged frog.. Use methods that are based on sound principles of ecosystem management and that are consistent with the Department's *Non-Native Animal Control Policy* (DOM, Chapter 0300, Natural Resources, Section 0311.5.7.1). Priority for control efforts will be given to those species most detrimental to the environment and for which there is a reasonable probability of success.

Wildlife 5: Encourage and support scientific surveys and studies to be conducted in the park to gather more information about the distribution, status, and condition of sensitive natural resources. Monitoring of San Francisco garter snake, California red-legged frog, and other special status animal species is desirable to identify animal population trends and to develop management strategies for their protection and perpetuation.

Wildlife 6: Reduce and, where possible, eliminate wildlife access to human food and garbage by using wildlife-proof trash containers and dumpsters throughout the park, increasing the frequency of trash collection, and educating the public about the detrimental effects that human food can have on the ecological balance of the park and surrounding regions. Post signs throughout the park informing people not to feed wildlife and to cover and store food and trash appropriately.

Wildlife 7: Protect common and sensitive wildlife and their habitats for the purpose of establishing and maintaining self-sustaining populations in a natural ecological setting and/or as required by laws and regulations. Avoid human-induced disturbance and degradation of natural areas. Protect special habitat elements such as snags and monarch roost trees where possible.

Special Status Animals Guidelines:

Forty-nine special status animal species are confirmed or strongly suspected to occur within the boundaries of Año Nuevo SP. Eleven of the species with confirmed sightings in the park have state and/or federal listing status. These are the American peregrine falcon, California brown pelican, California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake, steelhead (central California coast ESU), coho salmon (central California coast ESU), marbled murrelet, bank swallow, willow flycatcher, Western snowy plover, and Steller (northern) sea lion. Appropriate management should be provided for all special status animal species.

Special Animals 1: Protect all sensitive native wildlife species and their habitats. Include all taxa that are locally important (including endemic species) as well as those protected by federal and/or state law. A comprehensive list of species requiring special management attention should be prepared and regularly updated. Implement specific programs using sound ecological principles and professionally accepted methods to protect and rehabilitate sensitive animal populations and their habitats.

Special Animals 2: Minimize trail building, roadwork, and park facility maintenance activities in or near breeding areas during the breeding seasons for special status species.

Special Animals 3: Minimize disturbance to sensitive aquatic species, including California red-legged frog and anadromous fish, when scheduling and implementing activities that may result in streambed alteration or disturbance to wetlands or riparian habitat. This includes the sizing and placement of culverts beneath roads and trails throughout the park to facilitate fish passage. Culvert drainage patterns should follow the natural grade of the stream as much as possible to maximize fish passage.

Special Animals 4: Consider the needs of sensitive aquatic species into the timing and implementation of any activity that would result in streambed alteration or disturbance to wetlands or riparian habitat. Conduct instream work consistent with the requirements of CDFG, NOAA Fisheries, and the Federal Clean Water Act. Apply appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality.

Special Animals 5: Inspect structures for special status species, particularly for bat populations, prior to renovation removal or any other actions which could disturb or harm special status species. Take appropriate measures to protect any identified special status species.

Regional Habitat Management Guidelines:

The Santa Cruz Mountains bioregion comprises a mosaic of pristine or near pristine native habitats, habitats in various stages of succession, and lands converted for agriculture, road development, and home site/business purposes that provide little or no wildlife habitat value. Fragmentation is a primary concern regarding the sustainability of species populations, and linkage with other protected areas is key to long-term species protection. It is vital to maintain connections to regional conservation, including reserve design and linkages, natural processes (such as fire and flooding), vegetation management, exotic species control, road maintenance and aquatic sedimentation, as well as routine inspections and monitoring. Año Nuevo SP provides a valuable core of preserved native habitats within this bioregion that is contiguous with other protected public lands or is linked to other native habitats. These linkages, both terrestrial and aquatic, allow movement of wildlife from one suitable habitat to another. Linkages may take the form of stream corridors or parcels of wild land through developed areas. Identifying and protecting linkages between the park and other surrounding natural lands is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting regional conservation. Regional stressors affecting wildlife and habitats that are pertinent to Año Nuevo SP include intensive agriculture effects (such as runoff of agricultural chemicals and sediment, consumption of oversubscribed water resources, and conversion and fragmentation of habitat); water management and degraded aquatics (such as riparian habitats, and coastal wetlands have been degraded by the use of water resources, flood control efforts, and the effects of surrounding land uses); recreation pressure on sensitive habitats (such as beaches and dunes, serpentine habitats, and riparian areas); and invasive species threats to biological diversity.

Regional Habitat 1: Protect known wildlife habitat linkages to permit movement of fish and wildlife and to increase species abundance and diversity. Collect baseline information for monitoring the health and function of core habitat areas and these linkages. Monitor wildlife as necessary to gauge the

Año Nuevo SP provides a valuable core of preserved native habitats that is contiguous with other protected public lands.

effectiveness of linkages and to identify wildlife movement and population trends.

Regional Habitat 2: Maintain working relationships with other land owners, such as the open space districts, to coordinate efforts to identify and preserve natural lands and habitat linkages. Acquire adjacent properties from willing sellers and/or obtain conservation easements where necessary to connect wildlife habitats in the park with other properties in the region that would preserve similar habitats that might otherwise be logged, subdivided, or developed.

Regional Habitat 3: Protected land areas should be managed in coordination with marine areas to support the vital links between healthy watersheds and wetlands and the continued productivity of coastal waters.

Regional Habitat 4: Coordinate, collaborate, and take a leadership role where appropriate with agencies and regional partners on recommended regional conservation actions for the Central Coast Region and the Marine Region as identified in the DFG's Wildlife Action Plan. Actions include, but are not limited to:

- Work with agencies and government land use planning processes, including zoning adjusted properties, to establish regional goals for species and habitat protection.
- Work with private landowners and land managers to implement agricultural management practices that are compatible with wildlife and habitat conservation
- Protect large unfragmented habitat areas, wildlife corridors, and underprotected ecological community types
- Protect sensitive species and wildlife habitats
- Provide greater resources and efforts to control invasive species and prevent new introductions

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Año Nuevo SP is known to contain a wide array of cultural resources, from prehistoric archaeological sites to mid-nineteenth century and later ranch buildings. Many of these known resources have not been formally recorded, and much of the park has not been surveyed for cultural resources.

Prehistoric Resources

There are numerous prehistoric sites in the coastal and inland portions of Año Nuevo SP. Many important archaeological sites at the park are being damaged due to elephant seal and visitor use activities which also result in increased soil erosion. The elephant seals have disturbed protective dune cover over archaeological sites resulting in substantial loss of archaeological material. The prehistoric occupation of the area around Año Nuevo Point is significant in a number of ways and the remaining sites contain important archaeological information that should be preserved. The inland Quiroste Valley was also a significant area of prehistoric human occupation.

Prehistoric Resources Goal: Identify, protect, and preserve the significant prehistoric archaeological sites in Año Nuevo SP.

Prehistoric Resources Guidelines:

Prehistoric 1: Conduct cultural resource surveys and evaluations to protect the remaining archaeological resources in place, and identify those that are in need of data recovery. Initiate a data recovery effort, including site surveys and GIS mapping, followed by analysis and documentation of the findings, and develop specific management guidelines for significance evaluation of archeological sites, monitoring, site treatment and protection.

Prehistoric 2: Survey high priority areas for cultural resources, including Año Nuevo Creek, the area between Año Nuevo Point and Franklin Point, and Quiroste Valley. Provide guidelines and treatment plans for the cultural resources in the inland portions of the park, particularly Quiroste Valley.

Prehistoric 3: Survey, record and evaluate areas of high probability for prehistoric archaeological sites (particularly along ridge tops). Establish criteria of significance for each class of resource for sites encountered in the future. Investigate, record, and evaluate the known historical sites and areas of historic-period activity.

Historic Resources

There are numerous historic buildings, structures, objects, sites, and landscape features in both the inland and coastal

portions of Año Nuevo SP, as well as on Año Nuevo Island. There are several historic buildings and structures remaining in the coastal area, historically known as the Dickerman Ranch. The Dickerman Barn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), while several others are eligible for listing. There are also several other historic buildings, structures, objects, and sites in this area, that may be eligible. While most of the historic buildings have been recorded, many of the structures, objects, and sites have never been recorded, inventoried, or evaluated for eligibility for listing in the NRHP, or the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR).

The Cascade Ranch area includes original buildings from one of the Steele Brothers Dairies. It is part of California State Historical Landmark 906.

The Cascade Ranch area, located in the inland portion of the park, represents one of the last remaining original Steele Brothers Dairies. This ranch appears eligible for listing in the NRHP, likely as a historic district. Currently, it is recognized as part of California State Historical Landmark #906. Many of the buildings remaining on the ranch are original. Most of the ranch's historic resources have never been formally recorded, and most of the inland portion of the park has not been surveyed for cultural resources.

Monterey Cypress windbreaks are remnants of former agricultural use and are a potential cultural landscape feature that should be evaluated and considered in a comprehensive coastal land use and vegetation management strategy.

Historic Resources Goal: Identify, protect, preserve, and interpret the significant historic resources (buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts) in Año Nuevo SP.

Historic Resources Guidelines:

Historic 1: Conduct a comprehensive survey of historic resources in the park, to include focused archival research on the history of the park (for those portions not already completed). Complete focused historic contexts for the park that will provide for more meaningful significance evaluations.

Historic 2: Identify and record historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and landscape features for those that lack such documentation. Complete historic structure reports for the three houses at the Cascade Ranch complex (the Steele House, Rensselaer Steele/Humphrey House, and the Humphrey Cottage) and the Flora Dickerman-Steele-Elliott House and Garage located in the Dickerman Ranch complex. Complete Historic Structures Reports and Cultural

Landscape Reports as necessary. Until inventorying and evaluation is completed, treat all potentially historic resources as if eligible for listing in the NRHP, in accordance with department policy.

Historic 3: Preserve and protect those resources found to be eligible and potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources and that are of regional or statewide significance. Develop treatment recommendations for significant historic structures and identify compatible and non-compatible uses. Project work, treatments, and seismic retrofitting on historic structures will comply with the State Historic Building Code. Protect significant prehistoric sites through identification, preservation, and avoidance. Evaluate potential of the Cascade Ranch for eligibility for nomination to National Register of Historic Places.

Historic 4: Prior to site-specific development, areas of potential impact shall be surveyed and evaluated to determine the presence and significance of cultural resources, the potential impact, and recommended mitigation, if appropriate. Impacts may be reduced by project avoidance, site capping, structural stabilization/preservation, project design, and data recovery.

Historic 5: Park development strategies should include cultural resource treatments, as defined by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, for identified historic buildings, structures, sites, and features, combined with the interpretive objectives for the landscape as a whole, including the periods of significance, the integrity of the landscape and its character-defining features, and the existing condition of these individual features. New construction should not attempt to add "historic period" looking features and elements. Prioritize building restoration work.

Museum Collections and the Scope of Collections Statement

Museum collections are important for understanding a park's cultural and natural histories and for interpreting that information to the public. A Scope of Collections Statement (SOCS) is required for every park unit that has or plans to have museum objects. The purpose of the Scope of Collections Statement is to define what objects constitute the permanent

collection for this park; how the objects are used; and what objects are appropriate for the park to acquire. The Scope of Collections Statement describes how the park plans to interpret, exhibit, conserve, and make collections available for public research. It includes a description of the park's museum collections, historical time periods, interpretive themes, intended uses of museum objects, and recommendations for museum acquisitions and collection management goals.

The following collections guidelines outline the types, acquisition, maintenance, qualities, and quantities of objects appropriate for the museum collection. The Scope of Collections Statement is the document which will provide a detailed management plan.

Museum Collections Guidelines:

Museum 1: A Scope of Collections Statement shall be prepared for this unit and updated periodically to provide clear guidelines on which objects to seek, acquire, decline, and deaccession.

Museum 2: The park's museum collections shall relate closely to the park's history, resources, themes, and values. Documents and artifacts of people, events, cultural features, or natural features shall be protected, curated, and accessible to the public.

Museum 3: Appropriate and relevant objects should be acquired and maintained to preserve original elements of the cultural and natural environment, to preserve documentation of people, events, and cultural or natural features that are central to the park's purpose, and to support the interpretation of park themes as given in this plan and in future park interpretive planning. Appropriate and relevant cultural history objects would include any related to the native California Indian lifeways in the area, cattle ranching, dairying and row-crop farming activities at Año Nuevo, and shipping, shipwrecks, and the light station. Natural history objects would include any related to the northern elephant seal and other marine mammals, local fossils and geology, the plant communities of the park, and special status species.

Museum 4: Collections acquired for or maintained at the park shall be managed in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Chapter 2000, Museum Collections Management, in the Department's

Operations Manual. The Department will establish secure and climate-controlled collections storage, management, and research space for the park's collections.

VISITOR USE AND OPPORTUNITIES

Recreation

Año Nuevo SP is in a location along California's central coast that has remained relatively undeveloped and offers a variety of recreation opportunities in coastal, mountain, and other remote natural settings. California's growing and changing population is placing new demands on existing parks and recreation areas, especially those near large metropolitan centers such as the San Francisco Bay Area. A future challenge will be to provide opportunities for an optimum number of visitors to experience the exceptional natural and cultural resources at the park while protecting these resources for future generations. The inland portion of the park offers the potential to provide additional recreation facilities and programs to help satisfy the increasing demand.

Recreation Goal: Provide a variety of recreation and visitor opportunities and facilities that will allow California's diverse population to visit, appreciate, enjoy, and learn about Año Nuevo SP.

Recreation Guidelines:

Recreation 1: Plan recreation opportunities and facilities within a regional context and in coordination with federal, state, and county agencies as well as conservancies and open space organizations. Integrate recreation opportunities and facilities into recreation networks such as regional trail systems. Focus on expanding the regional diversity of visitor experiences and complement, rather than duplicate, existing regional facilities.

Recreation 2: Accommodate and enhance existing recreation and visitor opportunities and ensure use levels are appropriate to park resources protection. Evaluate visitor programs and facilities for effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. Evaluate new and emerging recreation activities and trends for safety, environmental impacts, and compatibility with existing uses.

As the Bay Area's population grows and changes, it will be a challenge to provide opportunities for visitors to experience the park's exceptional resources, while protecting those resources for future generations.

Recreation 3: Provide recreation opportunities that respond to the specific characteristics of the Santa Cruz Mountain and San Mateo coast region. Include activities at the park that reveal the sights, sounds, and experiences of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Pacific Coast. Appropriate activities may include, but are not limited to, hiking, biking, surfing, horseback riding, fishing, picnicking, camping, nature study, photography, and the enjoyment of solitude. Consider accommodating new and emerging outdoor activities, such as geocaching and orienteering, that provide different ways to experience and enjoy the park's environments and resources.

Recreation 4: Seek opportunities to further serve regional recreational demand. This may include: camping, picnicking, hiking; opportunities for group picnics, hiking opportunities, and camping, indoor overnight accommodations such as yurts or cabins (designed and sited appropriately so as not to impact important natural and cultural resources), enroute camping, and ADA-compliant recreational facilities. Modify trails to provide viewpoints for scenic, natural, and/or cultural resources and incorporate places for photo opportunities and interpretation where appropriate in the park. Periodically evaluate how California's changing demographics may be influencing park visitation patterns and intensities and implement management actions and create opportunities that respond to these trends, consistent with the General Plan's vision, goals, and guidelines.

Recreation 5: To increase recreational opportunities, provide recreation opportunities that expand the use of the park in the spring and fall "shoulder seasons" as well as activities other than the popular elephant seal tour activities in winter.

Recreation 6: Provide visitor opportunities and adaptive uses in historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes where appropriate, and in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, where applicable. Possibilities include historical displays or interpretive activities at the Dickerman-Steele Ranch and park visitor center, and interpretive or special event activities as well as equestrian access at the Cascade Ranch.

Recreation 7: Acquire adjacent properties or easements from willing sellers that can enhance the natural lands or resource character of the park and that would provide recreation opportunities and connections between Año Nuevo SP and other state and regional parks and natural lands.

Recreation 8: Continue evaluating new technologies and recreational activities and incorporate those that would enhance visitor experiences and benefit recreation and education facilities and programs, such as use of the Internet for public outreach and wireless Internet access in the park.

Access and Circulation

Año Nuevo SP is well known for its coastal resources and the park attracts thousands of visitors every year to observe marine mammals. The park's road and trail system is important to provide efficient vehicle and pedestrian circulation and safe pleasant visitor experiences, and is located to protect the unique natural and cultural resources. Public access is available from Highway 1, although access into the inland portion of the park is currently limited.

Access and Circulation Goal: Provide access to and within Año Nuevo SP that allows public use of its recreation resources and is well-designed, efficient, safe, easy to understand, convenient, and enjoyable. Coordinate and maintain staff and visitor access and circulation to optimize efficiency, security, emergency access, and enjoyment of the park while still keeping with the park's character and avoiding resource degradation.

Access and Circulation Guidelines:

Access 1: Establish park access that provides clear direction for visitor arrival to and departure from the park. Provide easily accessible orientation and information that will permit visitors to choose from a range of available park experiences. Ensure that primary visitor contact areas are conveniently located so that their administrative functions proceed efficiently for both visitors and park staff. Provide or improve access to less-visited areas of the park. Coordinate with Caltrans and San Mateo County to ensure that road construction and maintenance will result in safe, convenient, and enjoyable driving experiences for motorists as they access the park. If necessary, provide appropriate warning of potential hazards.

Access 2: Work with state and local transportation agencies to support an integrated and efficient multi-modal transportation system that facilitates visitor access to the park. Coordinate with these agencies to provide facilities that encourage and support a variety of transportation forms, including pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, individual vehicle, bus, and shuttle, and includes support facilities, such as bus pullouts and transit shelters. Coordinate with Caltrans and San Mateo County to provide sufficient emergency vehicle access on the roadways in and around Año Nuevo SP.

Access 3: Enhance park entrances with treatments that convey a positive and welcoming “first impression” appearance. Park access facilities should convey a sense of the park’s character through sensitive design that reflects local natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources and avoids negative impacts to those resources. Remove, combine, or relocate signs that are confusing, unnecessary, or negatively impact aesthetic resources. Create a continuity of sign placement and design to promote a recognizable park identity.

Access 4: Consider a visitor shuttle service from the visitor/interpretive center to other areas of the park, such as Cascade Ranch. Evaluate the feasibility of a shuttle service to provide visitors with an alternative and convenient access to explore other areas of the park, to contribute to more efficient use of existing facilities, and to reduce park traffic and the size of parking facilities needed to serve visitor activities at Cascade Ranch or other park areas.

Access 5: Provide a circulation system that separates vehicular from non-vehicular traffic where feasible, personal vehicles from buses, and public from park administration and maintenance functions in order to reduce potential user conflicts and enhance non-vehicular modes of transportation.

Access 6: Provide park directional, orientation, and trail signs that help visitors easily understand the park’s trail system and reinforce the rules and policies of trail usage, consistent with Department guidelines, aesthetics, safety, views, and compatibility with the surrounding natural and cultural environment.

Parking

Año Nuevo SP has coastal day use parking facilities (209 total spaces plus five coastal trailheads with informal parking areas) supporting coastal visitor uses that include the popular elephant seal tours at Año Nuevo Point, picnicking, coastal trail access, and coastal fishing access at the mouth of Gazos Creek. Park visitation peaks during elephant seal breeding season (December 15 to March 31), creating some traffic conflict and congestion problems at the visitor center parking area adjacent to the Dickerman-Steele Ranch complex. Several roadside parking areas between the visitor center and Gazos Creek serve low-intensity coastal trail access. Since there are no existing formal parking areas in the inland portions of the park, there is a need for parking to help establish visitor access and use.

Parking Goal: Provide well designed and convenient parking facilities that minimize negative impacts to natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources while contributing to positive visitor experiences in the park.

Parking Guidelines:

Parking 1: Provide safe and convenient day use and overnight parking as well as parking for group use and special events in appropriate locations. Design and implement parking improvements to respond to actual demand for parking, in order to minimize formal parking lot development. Explore alternatives for accommodating special event parking, such as the use of unpaved areas and satellite parking areas. Reconfigure parking availability where necessary to address public safety concerns and improve visitor experiences. Consider shared parking arrangements with adjoining landowners.

Parking 2: Minimize the number of parking facilities near or adjacent to sensitive resource areas to reduce or avoid negative resource impacts.

Trails

Trails are important recreational facilities within and adjacent to Año Nuevo SP and are in high demand by multiple user groups. The park's large backcountry area provides potential for multiple trails for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. The park's location on the coastal side of the Santa Cruz Mountains and along the San Mateo coast offers public

coastal access and can serve as a primary node for trail connections within the region.

Trails Goal: Provide a trail system that offers a range of trail experiences, including hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use, with access to regional and statewide trail systems.

Trails Guidelines:

Trails 1: Develop new trails and trailheads to provide visitors a range of choices for enjoying pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, aesthetic, and interpretive experiences in the park. Focus on providing trails that access areas of natural, cultural, and scenic interest, reach the coast and backcountry areas, and that also connect to regional trail systems. Improve existing trailheads and create new trailhead facilities to promote and encourage the use of existing unpaved and paved roads within the park should be determined in the Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP). Use the Department's *Trails Handbook* to guide trail design, construction, management, and maintenance.



Año Nuevo Point trailhead, Año Nuevo SNR

Trails 2: Continue hiking-only trails in coastal areas. Multi-use trails are allowable in developed areas at the Dickerman-Steele Ranch and Gazos Creek coastal access parking area. Allow wheelchair access on designated handicapped accessible trails. Explore the potential to expand the miles of accessible trails within the park unit to visitors with mobility challenges to experience more of the park. Complete Coastal Trail sections through the park in a manner that is consistent with the management intent, goals, and guidelines for the coastal planning zones.

Trails 3: Develop trails and trail loops of shorter length near popular park attractions to accommodate California's growing populations of older, younger, and disabled park visitors. Multi-use designations should be determined in the RTMP. Provide support facilities at locations such as trailheads that incorporate ADA-compliant picnic facilities, restrooms, and other universally accessible amenities.

Trails 4: Locate trails and trailheads to minimize impacts to natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and to avoid areas of geological instability.

Trails 5: Maintain signs clarifying public property boundaries and provide trail users with information

regarding park rules, wayfinding, and regulations to minimize public/private use conflicts.

Trails 6: Coordinate trails planning, development, and use with regional parks and open space providers, community-based organizations, and adjacent landowners to encourage trail connections between Año Nuevo SP and other public lands. Support federal, state, and regional trail objectives and plans, such as county local coastal programs.

Trails 7: Acquire from willing sellers, recreational corridors and easements on existing fire roads or other appropriate lands for trails that connect the park to other state and regional parks and natural lands.

Trails 8: Coordinate and develop a parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan that evaluates the park's entire circulation system and guides the placement and use of future trails. Emphasize opportunities for visitors to access and enjoy the park's natural and cultural resources, its recreation destinations and facilities, and its diverse topography, natural communities, and scenic views. The plan should recognize regional trail connections, recreation opportunities, habitat linkages, and provide opportunities for further public input.

Accessibility

The park currently has a visitor center, picnic facilities, and a boardwalk that are universally-accessible. Future projects will retrofit other facilities to ADA standards and provide additional universally-accessible facilities and recreation opportunities in the park as identified in the Department's Accessibility Transition Plan.

Accessibility Goal: Año Nuevo SP's recreation facilities shall become universally-accessible, and provide high-quality recreational opportunities for all visitors.

Accessibility Guidelines:

Accessibility 1: Provide universal access to the park's recreation facilities and resources where feasible, including buildings and their contents, historic structures and landscapes, roads, walkways and trails, and the park's important natural and cultural resources, in accordance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)* and California State Park's *Accessibility*

State Parks is committed to providing accessible facilities and high-quality recreation opportunities for all visitors.

Guidelines. Provide universal accessibility for employees in work areas and in park residences as they are developed or renovated.

Accessibility 2: Design and place all signage, interpretive exhibits, and park publications in accordance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)* and California State Park's *Accessibility Guidelines*.

Accessibility 3: Use the *California Historic Building Code* as a guideline for providing appropriate accessibility in historic structures. The code provides alternative regulations to facilitate access and use by persons with disabilities to and throughout buildings, structures, and sites designated as qualified historic buildings or properties. Reasonably equivalent access alternatives are evaluated as part of this process.

Aesthetics



The visitor experience at Año Nuevo SP could include this view of grasslands and distant fogbank, the feel of the cooling breeze off the ocean, and the sound of birdsong.

Park aesthetics are a vital part of the quality of visitor experience at Año Nuevo SP. Visitors to the park experience scenic resources and other sensory experiences from a variety of vantage points. Positive scenic views include vistas of the expansive ocean and coastline, coastal dunes, wetlands, adjacent agricultural fields and ranches, historic ranch buildings, coastal foothills, forested mountains, secluded valleys, ridgelines, and distant features on the horizon, such as the Pigeon Point light station. Other sensory elements that enrich a visitor's park experience include the sound and smell of the ocean, the sound of wildlife, the quiet stillness of a forest, and the scents of varying vegetation types. Negative impacts to aesthetic resources may include incompatible development and uses, and adjacent influences such as highway traffic noise or odors from nearby property uses.

Aesthetics Goal: Protect and enhance scenic viewsheds and features and preserve the visitor's experience of the surrounding landscape. Integrate positive aesthetic qualities into the design of park facilities and programs.

Aesthetics Guidelines:

Aesthetics 1: Locate development, structures, and other facilities to be sensitive to scenic views from and to the park. Locate facilities to minimize the impact on views from key viewpoints and to protect and/or emphasize positive scenic views. Use vegetative screening, land contouring and other appropriate

methods to minimize visual impacts from structures and outdoor facilities. Place utility lines underground and remove utility lines and poles where feasible.

Aesthetics 2: Establish design guidelines and an architectural vocabulary for new facilities development throughout the park. Newly established guidelines will incorporate elements or material types from existing facilities into new or rehabilitated facilities. The design of buildings, pedestrian bridges, fencing, gates, lighting, trails, signage, and other park infrastructure should be consistent with the overall design guidelines and with the park's vision and educational, recreational, and environmental objectives. Consider elements that will establish design continuity between the coastal and inland facilities.

Aesthetics 3: Establish access points into the inland portion of the park and develop design standards for these "gateway" areas to create a sense of arrival and establish an initial identity and sense of place. Design standards and guidelines for access points should distinguish primary and secondary gateways.

Aesthetics 4: Limit artificial lighting to avoid brightening the dark night sky. Restrict night lighting to the more developed areas of the park (e.g. buildings and parking lots) and provide lighting fixtures that focus the light downward. Light levels should be as low as possible, consistent with public safety standards. Refer to the Department's *Lightscape Protection Policy* (DPR Operations Manual, Chapter 0300, 2004) when evaluating lighting.

Aesthetics 5: Minimize vehicle noise in heavily-used areas of the park through screening, separation of use areas, and other appropriate techniques. Locate park administrative and maintenance functions away from public areas, if possible, and take appropriate measures to reduce construction and park maintenance noise.

Aesthetics 6: Conduct noise studies, if required, for development or improvements that may cause state noise standard exceedances at nearby sensitive use sites. Implement recommendations from the noise studies to reduce generated sounds to within acceptable noise levels.

The dark night sky will be preserved by limiting artificial lighting to only what is needed for public safety.

Aesthetics 7: Restrict sound levels from radios and other human-made devices and enforce park noise standards, especially night and early morning hours. Refer to the Department's *Soundscape Protection Policy* (Department Operations Manual, Chapter 0300, 2004) when planning new facilities or evaluating noise standards, and comply with federal and state noise standards.

Aesthetics 8: Coordinate with local, state and federal agencies, open space organizations, conservancies, community groups, landowners, and other stakeholders to protect and enhance positive aesthetic features and viewsheds in the park and region. Coordinated efforts with Caltrans (scenic highways), San Mateo County (scenic county roads) and the Peninsula Open Space Trust (Cloverdale Coastal Ranches Plan scenic protection goals) are necessary to achieve mutual goals. Follow the Local Coastal Program and other applicable standards for aesthetic resources.

Concessions

Concessions play a supportive role in enhancing the mission of California State Parks by providing essential and appropriate services that the Department may not have the resources or expertise to provide, and that are not being provided nearby by private business. Currently, there are no concessions operating at Año Nuevo SP.

Concessions Goal: Provide high quality recreation and visitor services through concessions contracts while protecting the park's natural, cultural, recreation and aesthetic resources.

Concessions Guidelines:

Concessions 1: Provide visitor services and products that enhance recreational and education experiences at the park, consistent with the Public Resources Code, Park and Recreation Commission policy guidelines, Department policies, and the park's purpose and vision.

Concessions 2: Evaluate and implement new types of concessions at the park to respond to regional and statewide recreation trends, demographic changes, and needs that are not being met by the private sector.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

The National Association for Interpretation defines interpretation as “a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and meanings inherent in the resource.” Interpretation is meant to inspire the audience to care more, not necessarily to teach facts.

Interpretation can enhance a park visitor’s experience and their understanding and appreciation of the park’s resources. Interpretation promotes recreational enjoyment, visitor safety, cultural and natural resource protection and appreciation, and understanding of management and maintenance practices. It can also educate visitors about how to help preserve the resources they came to enjoy and how to have a safe visit.

Opportunities exist to increase the effectiveness, accessibility, and efficiency of interpretation at Año Nuevo SP. Interpretation can also play a larger role in helping visitors reduce their impacts on the park’s resources, and giving visitors a take-home message on the importance of resource protection in their daily lives.

Education is focused intellectual learning. California State Parks is a leader in providing education programs for California’s grade K-12 school groups. There are opportunities to provide more education programs in and around Año Nuevo State Park and via remote media, especially in partnership with other area interpretation and education providers.

Interpretive Significance, Mission and Vision

Interpretive Significance of Año Nuevo SP:

Año Nuevo State Park encompasses Año Nuevo Point, Año Nuevo Island, and the western slope of the coast range inland from Año Nuevo Point. Park interpretation focuses on this area, with connections to geographically, culturally, or thematically related resources that enhance interpretation of the park.

Important natural resources for interpretation include pinniped rookeries and other significant wildlife habitats on Año Nuevo Island and the mainland, and three vegetation types that have been recognized as rare natural communities. The park provides habitat for several species of special concern, including coast

Interpretation is meant to inspire an audience to care more, not necessarily to teach facts.

Education is focused intellectual learning. California State Parks is a leader in providing educational programs for school groups.

wallflower, Steller sea lion, northern elephant seal, steelhead trout, coho salmon, San Francisco garter snake, southwestern pond turtle and red-legged frog; and makes up part of important regional ecological corridors and linkages.

Significant cultural resources for interpretation include evidence of native California Indian occupation, and historic buildings, structures, and landscape features on Año Nuevo Island and at the Cascade Ranch and Dickerman-Steele Ranch. The proposed traditional Ohlone landscape treatment at Quiroste Valley will provide a significant cultural resource for interpretation.

Important stories related to the park include the lifeways of the Quiroste band of Ohlone Indians, the Portolá expedition visit to the Quiroste village of Casa Grande in 1769, the Quiroste resistance to the Spanish mission system in the early 1790s, the Santa Cruz Mission outpost at Año Nuevo in the early 1800s, shipping, shipwrecks, and lighthouses on or near the present park coast; dairy farming and row crops, and the founding of the park.

Important natural resource stories include northern elephant seal natural history and the population's near-decimation and recovery, the population threats and recovery hopes for other species of special concern in the park including Steller sea lions, red-legged frogs, and San Francisco garter snakes; scientific research occurring in the park, especially on Año Nuevo Island, and the effect of humans through the years on the natural environment.

Aesthetic resources that may be included in interpretation include vistas of the ocean and coastal terrace from the upper slopes of the park, Cascade Falls, views of the Quiroste Valley, the cool marine air, and the sounds of breaking ocean waves and bellowing elephant seals.

Regional trail networks and local camping opportunities are the most important recreation resources to interpret.

Interpretation Mission: The mission of Año Nuevo State Park interpretation is to create a positive connection between park visitors and the diverse natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources of southwestern San Mateo County,

from Año Nuevo Island and the ocean's edge to the upper western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Interpretation Vision: High-quality interpretation, both at Año Nuevo State Park and via remote interpretive media, will give participants enhanced enjoyment and knowledge of the geology, plants, animals, and people of the San Mateo coastal area, will promote further understanding of and interest in broader science, history, and cultural concepts; will increase visitor safety at the park, and will lead to further protection of irreplaceable cultural and natural resources both in and outside of the park.

Interpretation and Education Goals and Guidelines

Interpretation and Education Goal A: Interpretation will support park management goals, including public safety and resource protection, which will increase compliance to rules, visitor safety, and the public's enjoyment and appreciation of the park, and will inspire public support and adoption of resource protection behavior beyond their park visit.

Guidelines:

Interpretation A-1: Use interpretive techniques to deliver wayfinding and park orientation information, and public safety messages such as staying on designated trails and not approaching the elephant seals.

Interpretation A-2: Interpret management programs to restore and preserve the park's unique natural and cultural resources.

Interpretation A-3: Interpret State Parks' measures to reduce global warming and inspire park visitors to adopt similar measures in their daily lives. (See guideline **Sustainability 2**).

Interpretation and Education Goal B: Interpretation at Año Nuevo SP will highlight the distinctive features of the park, and put them into a regional and statewide context.

Guidelines:

Interpretation B-1: When developing interpretive programs and interpretation plans for Año Nuevo SP, focus on the exemplary values and stories of the park and how they relate to the resources, programs, facilities, and stories of surrounding areas and to the



The Año Nuevo Visitor Center, now part of the new Marine Education Center, is the start of a memorable interpretive experience for thousands of visitors each year.

Department's statewide interpretation and education program. For example, interpretation of the lifeways of the land's early inhabitants can focus on the Quiroste band, which can then be put in the context of the Ohlone tribes in the region, and California Indians statewide.

Interpretation B-2: Research and develop opportunities to coordinate and partner with nearby state parks—including Big Basin Redwoods SP, Butano SP, and Pigeon Point Light Station SHP—and other area interpretive facilities to tell the regional story of cultural and natural resources. This can be done with joint programs, or by referring to interpretation in another facility where visitors can learn more about a certain topic. For example, interpretation of the dairying at both the Dickerman-Steele and Cascade Ranches can refer visitors to Wilder Ranch SP for more information on central coast dairying. Information on the Quiroste resistance and the mission outpost can lead naturally to information on visiting Santa Cruz Mission SHP. Each interpretive facility will tell its part of the larger story.

Interpretation B-3: Coordinate and partner with the Cascade Ranch Historic Farm or other area agriculture interpretation/education providers to improve public understanding and appreciation of coastal agriculture's past and present, and its potential sustainable future. (See guidelines **Cascade Ranch 5** and **Cascade Ranch 6**.)

Interpretation B-4: Coordinate and partner with Cloverdale Coastal Ranches on regional interpretation and public open-space orientation programs and facilities where appropriate. Minimize duplication of efforts where possible. (See guidelines **Wildlife and Dune 13** and **Backcountry 3**.)

Also see guideline **Backcountry 3** regarding regional trail interpretation.

Interpretation and Education Goal C: Park visitors will make connections between natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources, and understand individual park natural and cultural resources as part of larger processes and relationships.

Guidelines:

Interpretation C-1: Integrate natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational interpretation. Interpret wildlife, plants, and people (past, present, and future) in the context of the park's ecology, and in the context of the varied cultural landscape components within the park.

Interpretation C-2: Demonstrate how different perceptions of the park resources have led to vastly different uses, including timber harvesting, cattle ranching, dairying, row crop agriculture, shipping, recreation, and habitat preservation, and how those different uses have affected the area's resources in different ways.

Interpretation C-3: Interpret processes and relationships (patterns, cycles, interactions and adaptations) rather than isolated facts. For example, the northern elephant seal's rebound from the brink of extinction can be used to discuss evolutionary adaptations that suit the elephant seal to its environment, and the threat posed by the genetic bottleneck effect despite the species' growing population.

Interpretation C-4: Provide maritime history interpretation for Franklin Point, potentially with panels and/or guided or self-guided walks at Franklin Point. Consider augmenting cultural interpretation at the visitor center with themes appropriate to this site. Tie shipwreck and lighthouse history to the geology of this rugged section of coast, and to the broader historical context of the rest of California. Coordinate maritime history interpretation with Pigeon Point Light Station SHP, possibly including mention of that site in maritime history interpretive panels, programs, brochures, etc. (see guideline **Wildlife and Dune 8**).

Interpretation and Education Goal D: Interpretation will be engaging, address multiple learning styles, reach a broad audience and be universally accessible.

Guidelines:

Interpretation D-1: Emphasize tactile, auditory and object-related media that are dynamic and dramatic.

Interpretation D-2: Use a well-designed mixture of media to make interpretation interesting and accessible to all.



Victims of nearby shipwrecks were buried at Franklin Point. The site is now protected by this decking. Maritime, lighthouse, and shipwreck history will be interpreted at this spot.

Interpretation D-3: Expand the use of remote interpretation techniques—the existing PORTS programs and webpages, and other remote media such as podcasts, interactive websites, and downloadable/mailable activity books—to reach a wider interpretation/education audience not physically at Año Nuevo SP or a specific site at the park. This could include those who are unable to reserve elephant seal tours because tour demand exceeds availability, visitors with disabilities who cannot access more remote park areas, and potential visitors interested in the park and its resources.

Interpretation D-4: Continue to explore the possibilities of new technologies to further enhance the park's interpretive presentations, and broaden the audience and venues for park interpretation.

Interpretation D-5: Consider offering scheduled shuttle interpretive tours of backcountry areas using existing fire roads, if road easements and ownership will allow this on suitable routes. These tours could also visit other park units in the Santa Cruz Mountains, such as Big Basin Redwoods SP and Butano SP, and offer an overview of the area's history, geology, wildlife, and plant communities.

Interpretation and Education Goal E: Año Nuevo SP's interpretation program will use partnerships and cooperative relationships to expand interpretation resources and opportunities.

Guidelines:

Interpretation E-1: Work with interested parties to provide environmental education, research, and restoration opportunities.

Interpretation E-2: Work closely with the park's cooperating association and volunteers to improve park interpretive resources, programs, and opportunities. This will include expanding and updating volunteer resources such as the docent library and items for hands-on interpretation.

Interpretation E-3: Expand the volunteer program, to assist in the interpretation of the inland area. Provide a volunteer office/library in the park area east of State Highway 1 possibly as an adaptive use in one of the Cascade Ranch buildings.

Interpretation and Education Goal F: Año Nuevo State Park will provide respectful interpretation of the Quiroste Ohlone lifeways, the story of the Portolá expedition's contact with the group, and later Ohlone interaction with the Spanish at the Año Nuevo mission outpost, in conjunction with cultural and natural resource management of the landscape of Quiroste Valley.

Guidelines:

Interpretation F-1: Work with appropriate native California Indian groups to develop culturally respectful interpretation for Quiroste Valley's *Casa Grande* village site and mission outpost building foundation.

Interpretation F-2: Provide one or more interpretive panels at parking lots, visitor information centers, trailheads and/or viewpoints for the Quiroste Valley, interpreting the Quiroste heritage and the valley's traditionally managed landscape with consideration for preserving the viewshed of Quiroste Valley.

Interpretation and Education Goal G: Interpretation facilities will be provided in appropriate locations that effectively serve the interpretation goals and guidelines for the park, especially in the inland sections of the park which were not previously open to the public.

Interpretation G-1: Explore future interpretation facility locations for further expansion of park interpretation opportunities.

Interpretation G-2: Where feasible and when consistent with historic resource treatment guidelines, consider adaptive use of existing or historic buildings, structures or landscape settings for interpretation use. Possible adaptive use opportunities include the Dickerman-Steele Ranch and the Cascade Ranch.

Park Unit Interpretation Planning

State park unit interpretation planning takes place on three levels, each of which builds on the previous levels. The first level is the interpretation information in the unit's general plan. The general plan builds on State Parks system-wide interpretation planning. The two subsequent unit levels are:

- Interpretation Management Plan
- Project Plan

Interpretation Planning Goal: The interpretation goals defined for Año Nuevo SP in this general plan will be fulfilled by completing more detailed levels of interpretation planning, and implementing these plans.

Interpretation Planning Guidelines

Interpretation Planning 1: Integrate all interpretation planning with regional and statewide interpretation planning and development, both within California State Parks and with other local agencies. (See guidelines **Regional Planning 1** and **Regional Planning 2**.)

Interpretation Planning 2: Prepare an Interpretation Management Plan that further delineates the park's interpretive themes, periods, facilities, and media, and presents a plan for implementation. Update the master plan as needed.

Interpretation Planning 3: Develop specific interpretive project plans for Año Nuevo State Park personal and non-personal interpretation, as guided by the Interpretation Management Plan.

Interpretive Periods

Interpretive periods define what spans of history will be covered by the park's cultural history interpretation. A primary interpretive period focuses interpretation on the time period of greatest significance in the park's cultural history. The significance is determined by important events associated with the park site, or by notable existing historic or prehistoric resources at the site. Choosing the primary and secondary interpretive periods also involves considering what stories are best told in a particular park, the distinctiveness of the resources, the amount of information available to draw upon, and the physical evidence available for visitors to relate to. A secondary interpretive period designates a time period that is worthy of interpretation but that should receive less emphasis than the primary period. Except for major natural phenomena such as earthquakes or fire, interpretive periods generally are just set for cultural resource interpretation.

Primary Interpretive Periods:

Native California Indian Period: prehistory to 1850s

This period includes the prehistoric and post-European contact lifeways and histories of the Native California Indians

of the area. It also covers the 1769 contact with Portolá's expedition at the Ohlone village of *Casa Grande*, and the c.1791-1794 Quiroste resistance to the mission system.

Ranching and Farming Period: 1851 to the 1900s

This period includes the 1851 acquisition of *Rancho Punta de Año Nuevo* by Isaac Graham, the 1862 land sales to John Baird and Loren Coburn, the dairy ranching of the Steele family, and the irrigated farming operations that began in the early 1900s.

Secondary Interpretive Period:

Spanish Exploration, Mission Lands, Mexican Secularization, and Rancho Period: 1602 to 1846

This period includes the 1602 ship passage of Vizcaino, the pre-1834 Santa Cruz Mission ranch outpost at Año Nuevo, and the 1834 secularization that led to Simeon Castro receiving the land grant for *Rancho Punta de Año Nuevo*. The Native California Indian interpretive period covers the Portolá expedition's Quiroste contact, and the Quiroste resistance to the mission system, as these are primary topics for Año Nuevo SP, and the Quiroste viewpoint is extremely important.

Shipping, Shipwrecks, and Lighthouse Period: 1864 to 1948

This period covers William Waddell's 1864 construction of his lumber railroad, warehouse, and wharf; the three major shipwrecks at Franklin Point (1853-1866); and the building and operation of the foghorn and lighthouse on Año Nuevo Island (1872 to 1948).

Interpretive Themes

An interpretive theme is a succinct, central message about a topic of interest that a communicator wants to get across to an audience. Interpretation uses themes to connect visitors to the significant recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the park in personally meaningful ways. Themes provide a point of view for presenting information and inspiration through various interpretive media. Primary themes address the park's most significant topics; secondary themes relate information about slightly less-important park topics. The unifying theme integrates all of the park's primary and secondary themes.

Unifying Theme

The Pacific Ocean is the major influence on the climate, geology, plants, animals, and people of Año Nuevo.

One can almost say, “It’s all about the ocean at Año Nuevo:”

- Ocean waves continually shape the dramatic coastline, which is formed from rocks that were once at the bottom of the Pacific.
- The seaside climate strongly influences the flora at Año Nuevo, which is a major determiner of the fauna.
- Marine mammals—most notably northern elephant seals—visit Año Nuevo in large numbers.
- The coastal location attracted prehistoric people for food, and even money in the form of the shell trade.
- The Portolá expedition came through Año Nuevo because they were exploring the coast.
- Later settlers came to the Año Nuevo area to be able to ship by the sea.
- The marine shipping and rugged geology led to shipwrecks, which led to the building of the Año Nuevo light facility and the burials at Franklin Point.
- The mild coastal climate also makes Año Nuevo ideal for dairying and growing certain rowcrops.

Primary Themes

Physical Forces Theme

Geology, the ocean, weather, and fire continue to shape and recreate Año Nuevo State Park’s topography and natural communities.

This theme covers the geologic formation of Año Nuevo Point, the coastal terrace, and slopes within the park; the formation of rock fossils; the dynamics of beaches, dunes, bluffs, the island, and inland erosion and landslides; how the area’s topography transforms weather into microclimates, and how fire affects Año Nuevo’s plant and animal communities.

Natural Communities and Adaptations Theme

Año Nuevo State Park preserves a rich variety of natural communities and species that use well-honed relationships and adaptations to survive.

This theme covers the park’s natural communities from the open ocean to the forested ridges, and the natural histories

and evolutionary adaptations of the plant and animal species that inhabit them, including the animal the park is most connected with—the northern elephant seal. These communities include: the marine, the intertidal, sand dune, coastal scrub, grassland, coastal stream, pond, redwood and Douglas-fir forest, and knobcone pine communities.

Special Status Species Theme

Año Nuevo State Park is a refuge for species living on the edge of extinction.

This theme covers the park's special status species, including the Steller sea lion, the sea otter, the brown pelican, the peregrine falcon, the San Francisco garter snake, the California red-legged frog, and the southwestern pond turtle, and scientific study of these species at the park, especially on Año Nuevo Island. It also addresses the remarkable comeback of the northern elephant seal, and the potential problems that could occur because of the genetic bottleneck of its near-extinction.

Local Native California Indians Theme

The rich coastal resources of what is now Año Nuevo State Park supported one of the largest populations of people in the Monterey Bay area before Spanish settlement, and now provides a setting for revitalization and celebration of Ohlone culture.

This theme covers the lifeways and traditions of the Quiroste Ohlone people who lived in this area before 1791, the 1769 visit by Portolá's expedition to Quiroste Valley, the c.1791-1794 Quiroste resistance to the mission system, the decline of the Quiroste tribe, and the modern research, development and use of the Quiroste Valley traditionally managed landscape and cultural preserve. It also covers earlier non-Ohlone people to a lesser extent.

The contrast between the initial friendly contact with the Spaniards and the later strife that developed because of the missions can add further depth to this theme.

Ranching and Farming Theme

The ranching operations at Año Nuevo shifted from raising cattle to milking cows to growing row crops as transportation and economic conditions changed.

This theme covers the stories of the acquisition of *Rancho Punta de Año Nuevo* by Isaac Graham, the brief ownerships

of John Baird and Loren Coburn, the Steele family's several area dairy ranches, and the irrigated farming operations that began in the early 1900s and continue today. The pioneering dairy ranching of the Steele family at Cascade Ranch should receive the greatest interpretive emphasis, especially Clara Steele, "the Mother of the California Cheese Industry," and the production of cheese. Dairy and row crop history could be tied in with Wilder Ranch SP, which also interprets these topics about a half-hour drive away. Row-cropping can possibly also be tied in with the Cascade Ranch Historic Farm and Cloverdale Coastal Ranches' agriculture education programs. The story of Rensselaer Steele Jr.'s failed attempt to develop the town of Torquay on the property, which led to selling Cascade Ranch, can be told as a side note to this theme.

Recreation and Preservation Theme

We can enjoy Año Nuevo State Park today and preserve its many values for tomorrow.

This theme addresses visitors' need for wayfinding information and orientation to the park and its recreational opportunities, as well as tips on how to enjoy a safe and low impact visit.

Resource Opportunities and Challenges of the Future Theme

The natural communities at Año Nuevo State Park have and will continue to benefit from restoration projects, but they also face challenges from global climate change and other stressors in the future.

California State Parks preserves, protects, and also restores natural resources in its care. Global climate change will affect the plant and animal communities at Año Nuevo SP. Some changes can be mitigated, but other changes may be irreversible. State Parks is actively working to reduce its carbon footprint and lessen the negative effects of global climate change. Park interpretation audiences will understand and appreciate this message, and also be inspired to make changes in their own habits to reduce global climate change.

Secondary Themes:

Spanish Exploration Theme

Seeking a good port for trade ships and places to build settlements and missions, the Spanish explored the central coast by sea, naming Año Nuevo Point; and later passed through the area on a land expedition.

This theme explores the 1602 ship passage of Vizcaíno by Año Nuevo Point and the 1769 land expedition of Portolá during which they visited the Quiroste Ohlone village the Spanish called *Casa Grande*. The contact at Casa Grande is covered in more detail as part of the Local California Indians primary theme.

Mission Outpost Theme

In the early 19th century Santa Cruz Mission established and maintained a ranch outpost at Año Nuevo, one of several on the coast.

This theme covers the story of the Ohlone neophytes who ran this ranch outpost for the Santa Cruz Mission. It ties in Rancho del Arroyo de Matadero, the mission cattle ranch interpreted as a secondary theme at Wilder Ranch SP, and other nearby sites that were known mission outposts, to emphasize the far reach of the mission system in the Ohlones' world.

Mexican Land Grant Theme

After Santa Cruz Mission was closed, Simeon Castro was granted the lands of Rancho Punta de Año Nuevo.

This theme covers the story of the transfer of Santa Cruz Mission lands to Castro, who ran cattle on Año Nuevo when the mission was closed. Interpretation of this theme can be tied in with interpretation of Wilder Ranch's similar post-mission-land role as a Mexican land grant.

Shipping, Shipwrecks, and Lighthouse Theme

In an era without roads, the sea provided a dangerous and uncertain route for commerce.

This theme covers the stories of Waddell's lumber railroad, warehouse, and wharf; the shipwrecks at Franklin Point, and the foghorn and lighthouse on Año Nuevo Island. It allows for regional interpretation that ties in Pigeon Point Light Station.

Area Public Land Links Theme

Año Nuevo State Park connects to recreation, aesthetic, resource management, and interpretation opportunities in neighboring public lands.

This theme highlights the trail connections proposed between Año Nuevo SP, Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and Butano SP, and any other future cooperating, physical or thematic connections between area public lands.

PARK OPERATIONS

Infrastructure and operations are integral to meeting the park's purpose and vision.

Infrastructure and operations are at the core of a functional park. They are integral to meeting the park's purpose, vision, management of resources, and visitor uses. Interagency and intra-district cooperation and sharing of personnel and resources can help to ensure efficient operations and up-to-date infrastructure, especially if staffing levels and management organization change.

Visitor Safety

Public safety is an important concern at Año Nuevo SP, as the coastline experiences riptides and strong offshore currents. In addition, erosion caused by seasonal waves, stormwater runoff, marine mammals, and visitor use may cause trails to become unsafe for visitors and may require temporary closure. The Department's objective is to provide a safe visitor experience for all park users.

Safety Goal: Provide facilities and services that contribute to the safety and convenience of visitors.

Safety Guidelines:

Safety 1: Work with state agencies and local communities, districts, and agencies to provide a unified delivery of services in response to structural and public safety emergencies, training and using the expertise of all personnel.

Safety 2: Evaluate signage informing the visitor of riptides, undercurrent hazards, and other known hazards. Install or improve signage where appropriate and necessary.

Safety 3: Maintain trails in safe conditions where feasible and monitor for hazards. Close trails with unsafe conditions until improvements are completed.

Special Agreements

The park has a variety of legal agreements with different entities. It is important that these agreements are kept up-to-date and that they respect the purpose and vision of the park while honoring any legal requirements.

Special Agreements Goal A – Agricultural / Irrigation Water Rights: Ensure that water diversions out of Lake Elizabeth do not interfere with park operations and do not significantly affect resources.

Special Agreements Guideline:

Special Agreements A-1: Work with the current owner of the Lake Elizabeth water rights (Cascade Ranch Historic Farm) to monitor current diversion practices and ensure that the methods comply with current legal agreements.

Special Agreements Goal B – Adjacent Land Owners:

Enhance the functionality of the park operations through coordination and cooperation with adjacent land owners. Ensure that all easements, access agreements, or other legal arrangements are in the best interests of the Department and consistent with the park's purpose and vision.

Special Agreements Guideline:

Special Agreements B-1: Contact adjacent landowners to identify any parcels that may be available from willing sellers and suitable as park additions. Investigate and seek opportunities for securing easements or parcel additions that will enhance the functionality of the park.

Special Agreements B-2: Review all legal agreements regularly and check operating language to ensure compatibility with the park's mission and operations, monitor physical effects over time, if any, and update and modify agreements as necessary. Continue the Memorandum of Understanding with Cascade Ranch Historic Farm to cooperate in planning public access, visitor use, tours, presentations, and park operations.

Special Agreements Goal C – Año Nuevo Island: Continue research activities and protect and preserve natural and cultural resources on Año Nuevo Island.

Special Agreements Guideline:

Special Agreements C-1: Continue agreements with U.C. Santa Cruz, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and other entities currently using the island for research activities to ensure a high level of protection of cultural and marine resources and the continued occupancy of the fog signal building. Provide management guidelines for the appropriate treatment and protection of this building as necessary. Periodically review, reevaluate, and update agreements as necessary to assure consistency with the park's mission and current Department policies and operations. (See guideline **Wildlife and Dune 3**)

Special Agreements Goal D – Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve: Develop an agreement with appropriate representatives of the Ohlone People and State Parks in regards to plans, events and or special activities to be held in the Cultural Preserve.

Special Agreements Guideline:

Special Agreements D-1: Formulate an agreement, such as Memorandum of Understanding or a Shared Values Statement, with Ohlone Tribal affiliates that outlines conditions to hold special events in Quiroste Valley that relate to their inherent relationship with sites located within the Preserve.

Facilities

Park facilities will be environmentally compatible and logistically convenient.

Park facility design and development is wide-ranging, encompassing accommodations for visitor services, interpretive displays and programs, administration, support, maintenance, and operations. Park facilities allow the public to enjoy and benefit from the resources and recreational opportunities provided at the park. Both California State Parks and concession-offered visitor services should provide environmentally-appropriate and enjoyable recreation opportunities for a wide range of visitors. Also included under park facilities are facilities and infrastructure for park operations functions such as administration, security, maintenance, storage, resource management, interpretation, concessions, and docent or volunteer programs.

Facilities Goal: Plan, develop and maintain environmentally compatible and logistically convenient facilities in order to meet visitor, staff, and park management needs and to support efficient park operations.

Facilities Guidelines:

Facilities 1: Provide visitor use facilities that support opportunities for diverse visitor experiences. Locate facilities for effective and efficient visitor and staff use while minimizing user conflicts and negative effects on viewsheds, cultural, or natural resources. Design facilities that are compatible with the surrounding landscape character. Develop visitor use facilities to accommodate changing visitor uses and accessibility needs, population demographics, and increases in visitation.

Facilities 2: Ensure facilities and associated activities support or are compatible with the desired visitor experience and resource management intents of each planning zone. Evaluate the compatibility of new development with historic structures and visual resources, the potential impacts of new development upon historic and visual resources, as well as the efficient design of park circulation and traffic capacities.

Facilities 3: Initiate site-specific area plans and studies to determine appropriate location, size, and configurations for access roads, parking and staging areas, restrooms, camping and overnight facilities, interpretive facilities, operations and maintenance facilities, availability and location of utilities, and other park developments.

Facilities 4: Locate and design operational support facilities that aid in staff efficiency and effectiveness. Consolidate and strategically locate park operations and maintenance facilities in the park and in the region where feasible to improve efficiency and accessibility by staff. Consider inland locations that do not conflict with visitor facilities or activities and do not significantly impact the viewshed from State Highway 1 or the character of cultural landscapes.

Facilities 5: Provide staff housing to serve park security surveillance, effective emergency response, and park maintenance efficiency, as well as accommodate park staffing levels. Minimize conflicts with visitor facilities and activities. Locate staff housing in this park or other park units in the region.

Facilities 6: Consult with other state agencies, such as the San Francisco Bay Area Air Pollution Control District and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, prior to initiating construction activities.

Facilities 7: Conduct project-specific geotechnical evaluations prior to preparation of final plans for development on sites that may subject property or persons to risks from geologic hazards. Site mitigation, if necessary, shall conform to the recommendations in the geotechnical evaluations.

Facilities 8: When planning new facility development or property acquisitions, consider the needs for maintenance and public safety personnel, equipment,

communication systems, and emergency vehicle access.

Facilities 9: When reviewing potential new facility development or property acquisitions, assess the ability to provide for adequate public safety and facility upkeep as part of the environmental review. New park facilities or improvements to existing facilities shall comply with the California Building Code or the State Historical Building Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 8 where applicable.

Utilities

Park building construction dates vary from the mid-19th century to modular buildings erected in the late 1990s. Current utility needs may require upgrades to existing services. The most constraining limitation is the shortage potable water for public consumption. Current water storage and distribution are limited.

Utilities Goal: Ensure long-term sustainable, environmentally compatible and energy-efficient infrastructure function for the park.

Utilities Guidelines:

Utilities 1: Repair and upgrade the potable water supply and distribution systems to the existing park buildings and key visitor locations.

Utilities 2: Identify utility needs and implement utility improvements comprehensively to avoid unnecessary site disturbance and expensive rerouting of utility corridors and junctions over time. Ensure maximum energy efficiency with all improvements, repairs and new projects.

Utilities 3: Locate and map the current telephone, electricity and water utility systems in the park and maintain maps in a current condition, so that staff can recognize and respond to utility problems efficiently.

Utilities 4: Perform a condition assessment of the unit's current park infrastructure and determine the long-term facility needs for water, power, and other utility systems. Develop recommendations for utility replacement, upgrades, and new construction, in support of future park development, maintenance and operational needs. Plans for infrastructure and facilities

development shall be consistent with other park management goals and guidelines identified by the General Plan.

Sustainability

The concept of sustainable design represents a desire to harmonize the built environment with natural systems by emphasizing the principles of energy conservation, waste reduction, and pollution prevention. California State Parks can apply sustainable design principles that complement the Department's mission to provide recreation opportunities while preserving resources for future generations and to focus on creating environments that promote good health. It is especially important that park units use sustainable design principles, including energy and water conservation, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in light of the potential environmental changes due to global climate change. In doing so, the Department will also encourage the development of new technology and innovations that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and model to visitors some examples of positive actions to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability Goal: Incorporate sustainable design principles into the design, development, operations, and maintenance of park facilities and programs.

Sustainability Guidelines:

Sustainability 1: Use sustainable design strategies to minimize impacts to the park's natural, cultural and aesthetic resources. Choose low-impact building sites, structures, and building and landscape materials, and maintenance and management practices that avoid the use of environmentally-damaging, waste-producing, or hazardous materials. Use natural, renewable, indigenous, and recyclable materials, and energy-efficient design.

Sustainability 2: Interpret sustainable design elements in the park to encourage a sense of connection to the surrounding natural and cultural resources and inspire personal behavior that reduces negative impacts to the environment and promotes energy conservation.

Sustainability 3: Consult the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. These standards have been developed to promote

By using sustainable design principles in all phases of park design and operation, State Parks will encourage the development of new environmentally healthy technology, and model to visitors some positive actions to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

environmentally healthy design, construction, and maintenance practices

Sustainability 4: Use low- or zero-emission vehicles when possible, for park operations and maintenance, and a potential shuttle system. Small gas engines on grounds maintenance equipment are a leading contributor to greenhouse gases. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment as much as practicable, such as manual or electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of zero- or lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping emissions, and promote energy efficiency.

Regional coordination
provides opportunities
to maximize public
use, strengthen
resource
enhancement and
protection, improve
park operations and
programs, and protect
private property
interests.

Regional Planning and Community Involvement

Año Nuevo SP is located in the midst of a regional network of state parks and public and privately-owned natural lands. Establishing and coordinating recreational activities, interpretation and education, and resource management programs with the surrounding open space agencies, recreation providers, and private property owners provides opportunities to maximize public use, strengthen resource enhancement and protection, improve park operations and programs, and protect private property interests.

Regional Planning Goal: Integrate the planning and management programs at Año Nuevo SP with the programs of other parks and natural lands along the San Mateo coast and in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Regional Planning Guidelines:

Regional Planning 1: Coordinate resource management, operations, staff housing, interpretation, visitor and emergency services, and facility development programs at Año Nuevo SP with other state parks in the area to provide an integrated network of regional natural lands and healthy ecosystems, protected cultural and scenic resources, high-quality recreational opportunities, and operational efficiencies.

Regional Planning 2: Work in partnership with state, regional, and local agencies, private landowners, and other organizations to provide a network of regional natural lands and a variety of interpretation, education and recreation opportunities. Coordinate park planning with local natural lands planning efforts, such

as the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, the Peninsula Open Space Trust (Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property), Cascade Ranch Historic Farm, and other organizations. Coordinate with regional natural lands partners on changes in environmental and climate conditions, habitat location shifts, migrations of plants and animals, changes in public access and recreation opportunities, new emerging interpretive opportunities, and responding to changing operations challenges.

Regional Planning 3: Work in partnership with federal, state, regional, and local agencies as well as other organizations to manage and protect marine and intertidal resources along the Año Nuevo SP coastline.

Regional Planning 4: Coordinate and collaborate with universities, colleges and other research organizations on natural and cultural resource studies to increase the knowledge of resources in the park and in the San Mateo coast and Santa Cruz Mountains region. Seek cooperative agreements with adjacent landowners, neighbors, and local jurisdictions responsible for zoning and land use management to provide open-space buffer areas to protect sensitive park resources and to identify and preserve wildlife habitat linkages.

Regional Planning 5: Coordinate with state, county, city, and local organizations to provide effective and efficient public safety programs in the park and to maintain emergency evacuation routes to allow safe and immediate exit from areas of the park where people visit, work or reside.

Regional Planning 6: To expand affordable housing for park employees, coordinate with other parks and agencies in the region to identify and use potential shared housing opportunities.

Regional Planning 7: Provide input to San Mateo County and the California Coastal Commission as well as appropriate local, state, and federal agencies during environmental review of development projects, regarding visual impacts of surrounding development within the viewsheds of visible points within Año Nuevo State Park, particularly if a development would be visible from designated viewpoints.

4.6 MANAGING VISITOR CAPACITY

The Visitor Capacity Management (VCM) section presents the Department's methodology to evaluate existing and future desired conditions and to analyze the capacity issues related to general plan concepts and recommendations for the future development and use of the park. It is intended that the general plan and this discussion of visitor capacity will satisfy the initial requirements of the Public Resources Code, Section 5019.5, which states:

"Before any park or recreational area development plan is made, the department shall cause to be made a land carrying capacity survey of the proposed park or recreational area, including in such survey such factors as soil, moisture, and natural cover."

Año Nuevo SP contains developed areas with recreation and administrative facilities as well as a large amount of undeveloped land. The General Plan recommends preserving and protecting the park's important natural and cultural resources as well as recommending desired visitor and recreation experiences for future generations.

The General Plan discusses potential, desired, and appropriate visitor and recreational activities for Año Nuevo SP. Some recreational activities that have occurred in the park for many years have had impacts on some of the park's important natural and cultural resources. General Plan guidelines for resource management present a template of desired future conditions against which park managers can measure visitor use and take the appropriate actions to reduce or limit negative impacts using the adaptive management process. This process also considers possible alternatives for continuing desired and appropriate visitor experiences.

Park visitor experience is shaped by the physical environment and character of specific park areas. A particular park area's character helps determine the types of visitor opportunities that allow enjoyment or appreciation of a park's defining qualities, the variety of possible activities, and types and amount of development that serve those visitor activities. Physical constraints for development and public use exist in the park, such as sensitive wildlife and vegetation communities, archaeological and historic sites and features, existing roads, easements, and drainages. These elements will

all be important factors in park design and area visitor capacities.

The quality and character of visitor experience is also influenced by visitor demographics and recreation trends. These dynamic influences contribute to defining the nature of what are desirable park experiences and conditions.

The Department's methodology focuses on the initial capacity of developed facilities and desired resource and social conditions. Subsequent surveys, analysis, and monitoring programs are necessary in order to make final determinations and adjustments in visitor capacity through future management actions. The methodology and steps to be used in this process are outlined below.

VCM METHODOLOGY

The following represents an adaptive management cycle, or methodology, that involves research, planning, monitoring, and management actions to achieve sustainable resources and social conditions. This methodology was initiated during this general planning effort and applied with the level of detail commensurate with the conceptual nature of this plan. This includes the identification of existing opportunities and constraints and the description of desired resources and social conditions (refer to **Table 4-1**). Visitor capacities are addressed for park areas when sufficient data is presented.

Visitor Capacity Management is defined by California State Parks as:

"A methodology used to determine and maintain the desired resource and social conditions that fulfill the purpose and mission of a park. It includes establishing initial visitor capacities, then monitoring key indicators in order to identify appropriate management actions in response to unacceptable conditions."

Adaptive Management Process

The following tasks are usually carried out during the resource inventories, unit classification, and general planning processes. Subsequent management plans and site investigations provide the more detailed information necessary for project-level analysis and impact assessments in order to initiate required mitigation and monitoring programs. These tasks are presented here for an understanding of the iterative process that California State Parks considers from the

programmatic planning stages of the general plan through the project implementation and monitoring phases.

1. **Identify Existing Opportunities and Constraints:** Through ongoing research, surveys, and site investigations we are able to document existing resources and social conditions. This data helps identify opportunities and constraints, and establishes the baseline condition for natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
2. **Determine Vision and Desired Conditions:** The analysis of current uses and condition assessments begin to shape the types of activities and experiences that are desired. This increases our ability to determine the resource conditions we desire and the protective measures, including thresholds (standards) of acceptable resource conditions that are necessary to maintain those resource conditions.
3. **Identify Issues and Evaluate Alternatives:** The analysis of resource and social impacts related to current use helps identify the issues, problems, and thresholds that shape the vision or desired conditions of the park. Additional surveys, studies, or site analysis may be necessary to understand the full effects of existing uses, potential alternatives, or feasibility of desired improvements. It is at this stage that the objectives of visitor use and capacity for specific units are determined, which may include quantitative limits on certain park uses (e.g., the number of campsites or parking spaces in the park).
4. **Develop Measurable Indicators and Thresholds:** Key indicators are identified that can diagnose whether the desired conditions for a park are being met. These indicators must be measurable and have a direct relationship to at least one desired condition (e.g. the number of exposed tree roots per mile of trail). Thresholds that reflect desired conditions are then identified for each indicator (for example: 100 tree roots per trail mile maximum). Through monitoring processes, management is alerted when conditions exceed a determined threshold or deviate outside the acceptable range.
5. **Establish Initial Visitor Capacities:** Initial visitor capacities are formulated based on the analysis of existing conditions, alternative considerations, desired future conditions, and prescribed goals and objectives. Implementation occurs when sufficient knowledge is gained and plans are finalized. As environmental impact assessments and monitoring programs are

initiated, plans are implemented and new patterns of use are generated.

6. **Monitor Use and Identify Changing Conditions:** Through monitoring and further study we can assess the degree of impact or changing conditions that occur over a specified period of time. Thresholds and indicators are used in the monitoring process to determine when an unacceptable condition exists. Unacceptable conditions trigger management action(s) appropriate to correct the unacceptable condition.
7. **Adjust Environmental or Social Conditions:** As monitoring efforts reveal that conditions may be approaching or exceeding thresholds, management must consider alternatives and take appropriate action. The analysis of impacts and their causes should direct management toward actions that adjust resource/experience conditions to a desired state. This may include further studies, new project design, interpretive messages to change visitor behavior and use patterns, and stronger enforcement of rules and regulations, which may also require adjustments to the initial visitor capacities.

Research, Investigations, and Monitoring

Data from research, pre-project site investigations, visitor impact assessments, post-project evaluations, and baseline resource monitoring can all be captured and used to make sure the desired condition of the park is maintained. A program of continued research and site investigations provides and documents updated data on resource conditions and new problems as they may occur. Periodic surveys provide a measure of visitor satisfaction and identify recreation trends and public opinions on the types of activities and experiences people are seeking. These ongoing efforts build the unit data file for subsequent planning and analysis, and monitoring programs ensure that development actions achieve the desired outcomes.

Table 4-1 contains a sampling of indicators that may be developed based on some of the guidelines in this plan and their associated desired outcomes. These indicators may be modified on a regular basis, based on site-specific knowledge, recent observations in the field and updates in scientific understanding, in order to achieve the desired outcome.



Table 4-1
Samples of Desired Outcomes and Indicators

Guideline	Desired Outcome	Indicators (Environmental and Social)	Potential Management Actions & Monitoring Activities
<i>Natural Resources</i> Protect all special-status native wildlife species and their habitats. Include all taxa that are locally important (including endemic species) as well as those protected by federal and/or state law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable populations of special-status wildlife species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of special-status native wildlife species. Active nest sites. Presence of suitable habitat. Abundance of prey species. Periodic sightings reported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic field surveys. Check for active nest sites prior to construction activities.
Protect special-status plant species to the degree necessary to maintain or enhance populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable populations of special-status plant species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of special-status plant species. Active special-status native wildlife species nest sites. Presence of associated healthy plant communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate a survey for special-status plant species in the park as staffing and funding become available. Periodic field surveys.
<i>Cultural Resources</i> Protect significant cultural sites and features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of the integrity and value of cultural resources. Preservation of historic character of Cascade Ranch and Dickerman-Steele Ranch complexes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to known archeological sites. Retention of historic building fabric. Retention of cultural landscape elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a program for archeological survey, site recordation, evaluation, GPS mapping, and record and report preparation for the cultural resources within the park. Develop specific management guidelines for inventory and significance evaluation. Staff observations of park

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			resources and visitor activity during day-to-day operations. ▪ Periodic maintenance and building inspections.
Preserve and protect those resources found to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Protect significant prehistoric sites through identification, preservation, and avoidance.	▪ Retention of the integrity and value of cultural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disturbance to known archeological sites. ▪ Retention of historic building fabric. ▪ Retention of cultural landscape elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop treatment guidelines and recommendations for significant historic structures and features, including compatible and non-compatible uses. ▪ Staff observations during day-to-day operations. ▪ Periodic maintenance and building inspections.
<i>Recreation Resources</i> Provide a range of high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities that allow California's diverse population to visit, enjoy, experience, and appreciate all of the park's resources.	▪ A variety of recreation experiences that enhances appreciation and enjoyment of the park's resources, including opportunities to view or visit the elephant seals, coastal dunes, historic ranch complexes, the Quiroste Valley, coastal viewshed, trail systems, day use areas, and the coast redwoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presence of returning park visitors ▪ Diversity of recreation activity throughout the park ▪ Diversity in park visitation demographics ▪ Conflict amongst park users and differing recreation activities ▪ Effects on park resources with increases in park visitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff observations of park recreation activity during day-to-day operations ▪ Design facilities for user needs. ▪ Visitor satisfaction surveys. ▪ Evaluate new recreation opportunities, trends, and activities. ▪ Adjust or respond park visitor opportunities to changing demographics ▪ Conduct periodic visitors use and satisfaction surveys

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Planning Zone Guidelines			
<p><i>Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone:</i> Protect the historic structures and sites located in the Dickerman-Steele complex. Continue function as the park's primary visitor orientation and interpretation center.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and preservation of historic structures through adaptive reuse. Provision of visitor services to support quality visitor experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of historic building fabric. Retention of historic building arrangements and site development. Retention of cultural landscape elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitate historic buildings for appropriate adaptive uses and provide park orientation, interpretive programs, tour staging areas, visitor services, and day use facilities. Protect and interpret the Mission period outpost foundation found in the area between the Horse Barn, Dickerman Barn, and Creamery Building. Staff observations of park resources, facilities, and visitor activity during day-to-day operations. Periodic maintenance inspections.
<p>Reduce potential user conflicts and traffic congestion, and improve non-vehicular circulation in the entrance parking area. Enhance access to Año Nuevo Bay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less traffic congestion. Higher-quality visitor experience. Safer non-vehicular travel in and out of the park. Reduce pollution from idling vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved vehicular and non-vehicular circulation. Decrease in user conflicts. Increase in returning park visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade the existing entrance parking system. This may include separating vehicular from non-vehicular traffic, personal vehicles from buses, and public activity areas from park administration and maintenance operations.

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<p><i>Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone:</i> Preserve and protect the wildlife, habitats, and natural scenic vistas of the Año Nuevo coast.</p> <p>Provide for visitor access, use, and interpretation consistent with natural and cultural preservation values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special protection for sensitive natural and cultural features. ▪ Continued access and tours to northern elephant seal rookery. ▪ Continued visitor access to coastal dunes and beaches. ▪ Buffer zone established between the Natural Preserve and the highway and future developments. ▪ Coastal access, viewpoints, and maritime interpretation at Franklin Pt. ▪ Research-only access to Año Nuevo Island. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continually active pinniped rookery ▪ Presence of special status plant and wildlife species. ▪ Sightings of wildlife and marine life reported. ▪ Health of the coastal dune habitat. ▪ Structural integrity and presence of historic fabric of light station structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Periodic field resource surveys ▪ Check for active special-status wildlife species nest sites and presence of special status plant and wildlife species prior to any improvements to existing facilities. ▪ Field observations and recording visitor use patterns and capacity levels. ▪ Adjustments in visitation numbers, if necessary, and/or design improvements to visitor access locations and use areas.

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<p><i>Cascade Ranch Zone:</i> Preserve the Cascade Ranch area in cooperation with Cascade Ranch Historic Farm for its historic and cultural landscape values and educational potential.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserved historic character of Cascade Ranch complex and historic fabric of structures. Rehabilitated historic buildings and adapted for appropriate uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of historic fabric in ranch structures and historic character of ranch complex. Disturbance of known archeological sites. Presence of special status plant and wildlife species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic field resource surveys. Inspect structures for special status species, particularly bat populations.
<p><i>Lake Elizabeth Zone:</i> Develop this area as the primary trailhead access inland from State Highway 1.</p> <p>Provide day use recreation and enroute overnight stay opportunities.</p> <p>Protect special status wildlife species and their associated habitat.</p> <p>Preserve the expansive natural views of coastal foothills and ridges from the highway corridor.</p> <p>Minimize public/private use conflicts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodates visitor access to the inland Santa Cruz Mountains, Cascade Ranch, the coast, and Cloverdale Ranches to the north. Trailhead parking serves enroute camping. Creates new visitor/recreation opportunities. Possible increased camping capacity in the San Mateo Coast area. Preservation of the aesthetic resource of coastal foothill views from the Highway 1 area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of special status plant and wildlife species and suitable habitat. Periodic sightings of wildlife reported. Disturbance of known archeological or historical sites. Reports of public/private use conflicts. Trail erosion. Condition of day-use area and possible enroute campsites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct periodic field resources surveys. Conduct periodic peak visitor surveys. Include their recreational pursuits and interests. Conduct periodic trail condition appraisal, and evaluation of use impacts. Check for presence of special-status plant and wildlife species. Minimize the visual impact of park facilities with appropriate site planning and screening. Maintain signs indicating State Park boundaries.

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<p><i>Quiroste Valley Zone:</i></p> <p>Restore the cultural landscape of the valley to its pre-European contact state, and maintain this appearance.</p> <p>Preserve the valley as an area of unique cultural resources with provisions for appropriate public access, interpretation, and use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High integrity and value of the natural and cultural resources. ▪ Open appearance of valley as described and depicted by early Euro-American California explorers. ▪ Visitor access and provisions for interpretive of native California Indian culture and village life programs and events. ▪ Represented traditional Quiroste village structures (temporary). ▪ Visitor access to backcountry trails and regional multi-use trail network. ▪ Interpretive viewpoint into the Quiroste Valley. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Absence of non-native vegetation. ▪ Disturbance of cultural landscape character and visual quality. ▪ Disturbance of known archeological sites, native plant species, and native habitats. ▪ Conflicts among different visitor or special event activities including disruption of native California Indian ceremonies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased coordination with Native California Indian representatives. ▪ Modify roads and trails access through the valley. ▪ Evaluate visual impacts of any new facility developments.. ▪ Regulate special events activities and monitor and modify visitor use.

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<p>Backcountry Zone: Preserve the Backcountry Zone's natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and sense of solitude.</p> <p>Provide visitor/recreation opportunities that encourage appreciation of the Backcountry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitor access to backcountry trails, and connections to a regional multi-use trail network. ▪ Trail camps and picnic sites provided for small groups. ▪ Horse and/or bicycle trail camps, accessible from multi-use trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presence of special-status plant and wildlife species. ▪ Trail and road erosion. ▪ Presence of suitable wildlife and plant habitat. ▪ Sightings of wildlife reported. ▪ Disturbance of known archeological sites. ▪ Conflicts between different types of trail users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct periodic field resources surveys. ▪ Conduct periodic trail condition appraisal, and evaluation of use impacts and modify trails to reduce impacts of recreation use. ▪ Check for presence of special-status plant and wildlife species before developing any new camps.

NOTE: These are only sample indicators and possible management actions – Indicators also pertain to additional resource topics and may be updated by park staff based on field observations, new scientific knowledge, lack of current indicators to accurately reflect changes, etc.

